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CONTENTS

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INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

C.A. Presidents Optimistic About Esquipulas [ACAN] A 1
Delvalle Absence Explained A 2
[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 21 May]

ARGENTINA

Comment, Reportage on Thwarted Bombing of President B 1
Alfonsin Addresses Officers B 1
Military Involvement Viewed B 1
Questions Persist [BUENOS AIRES HERALD 21 May] B 2
Judge on Investigation B 3
Army Chief of Staff on Democratic Process, Bombs B 4
UCR Offices Attacked in Rosario, San Luis B 5
President Alfonsin Invited To Visit PRC B 5
Foreign Ministry Condemns South African Raids B 5
[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 21 May]

BRAZIL

Sarney, Duarte Discuss Central America, Peace D 1
Sign Agreements D 1
Itamaraty Note Repudiates S. African Attack D 1
Experts to Inspect European Foods for Radiation D 2
Chernobyl Accident Affects Imports, Exports D 2

ECUADOR

Government Minister on Echeverria Kidnapping G 1

PARAGUAY

Argentine TV Broadcasts Opposition Material H 1
FRG Diplomat Withdrawn in Wake of Incident H 1

PERU

Cuban Vice President Arrives on Official Visit J 1
Antirebel Operation Underway; Cell Broken Up J 1

MEXICO

De la Madrid, Envoy to U.S. View Senate Hearings M 1
Briefs: Drug Traffickers Arrested M 1

PANAMA

FDP on Leadership Changes, F-8 Group N 1
[LA PRENSA 21 May]
Correction to F-8 Orders on Opposition N 1

CENTRAL AMERICA

GUATEMALA

Foreign Minister Disagrees With Pentagon Document P 1
Shots Fired at Border Post Near Esquipulas P 1

HONDURAS

Azcona Pessimistic on Contadora, Esquipulas P 2

NICARAGUA

Government Communique Rejects Pentagon Document P 3
D'Escoto on Proposal to Contadora in Panama P 3
Official Believes Country Will Sign Contadora P 4
OAS Envoy Criticizes U.S. 'Manipulation' P 5
[EL NUEVO DIARIO 15 May]
FDN Seeks To Release FRG Citizens in Managua P 6
Alfonso Robelo Views Contadora, Unity, U.S. Aid P 6
Contras Suffer 302 Casualties From 6-20 May P 8

CUBA

Castro Speech at Cooperatives Meeting Q 1
Support for Speech Q 14
Caujeri Workers Respond Q 14
Enterprise Takes Over Peasants' Free Markets Q 15
Agriculture Minister on New Produce Markets Q 15

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Election Controversy Continues; No Final Results R 1
Counting Resumes; Balaguer Leads R 1
Vote Count Suspended Again R 1
Jorge: Majluta, Be Calm R 2

CARIBBEAN

BARBADOS

St John Calls for South African Boycott S 1
Cuba Compared to South Africa's Apartheid System S 1
[BARBADOS ADVOCATE 9 May]

DOMINICA

DLP Branch Asks for Leader's Resignation S 2

JAMAICA

Seaga Congratulates Dominican Republic's Balaguer S 3
South African Attack on Neighbors Condemned S 3
Drastic Reduction in Bauxite, Alumina Exports S 4
[THE DAILY GLEANER 9 May]

C.A. PRESIDENTS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT ESQUIPULAS

PA210249 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2310 GMT 20 May 86

[By Ana Cerrud]

[Text] Panama City, 20 May -- The Central American presidents will travel to Esquipulas, Guatemala, in an "optimistic" mood, yet convinced that the creation of a regional parliament will not be an alternative to the Contadora Group, as Guatemalan President Vincio Cerezo has suggested. Cerezo said recently that with his country's leadership, a Central American parliament would constitute an "alternative" to the Contadora Group's failure in seeking peace for the region. During their meeting this weekend [words indistinct] to form this organization so that Central Americans can solve the area conflicts "without intermediaries."

Although the area leaders have confirmed their attendance at the Esquipulas meeting on 24 and 25 May and have called the meeting "positive" for detente in the area, none of them have dismissed the importance of the efforts that the Contadora Group has been making over the past 3 years.

According to unconfirmed official reports disseminated in Guatemala City, only Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle, who is a member of Contadora along with is counterparts from Mexico, Colombia, and Venezuela, will not be present at the Esquipulas summit meeting.

While official sources are keeping silent on this, it has unofficially been said that Delvalle will not attend the presidents meeting because his government was not invited to the preliminary meetings.

Apparently, the Panamanian Government also feels offended because the Guatemalan president said that the dialogue between the Central American countries through the Contadora Group has failed. Cerezo proposed the Central American parliament as an alternative organization where "the protagonists" of the Central American conflicts can vent their own problems.

Costa Rican President Oscar Arias told ACAN-EFE that he will go to Esquipulas, on the border between Honduras and El Salvador, on 23 May. Arias will be accompanied by Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto and former Security Minister Mario Charpentier.

Furthermore, Rodolfo Castillo Claramount, acting Salvadoran president and foreign minister, has said that the leaders' meeting "will obviously be a Central American political discussion forum," but it should also be regarded as "a forum that contributes to the follow-up of Contadora and its mechanisms." Castillo Claramount, who has replaced Salvadoran President Jose Naopleon Duarte during the latter's tour through South America, said: "We do not view the parliament as an alternative to or an organization that opposes Contadora. We view it as one more of the Contadora Group's efforts." Castillo Claramount has confirmed Duarteattendance at the Esquipulas meeting.

"I am not too optimisitic," Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo told ACAN-EFE. He does not expect "to find solutions for the Central American problems during the 48-hour meeting. Such problems have been dealt with by the Contadora Group for 3 years and this group still has not exhuasted its efforts." Azcona indicated, however, that a Central American parliament "could do the region much good."

Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez has said only that in the Esquipulas summit meeting [words indistinct].

In Esquipulas, the presidents will hold two working sessions, one on Saturday afternoon that will last 4 hours and the other on Sunday morning. They will sign a joint statement at the end of the meeting.

Delvalle Absence Explained

PA211437 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 21 May 86 pp a-1, a-10

[Communique issued by Press Secretary of the Presidency in Panama City on 20 May 1986]

[Text] The Press Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic hereby informs that on 6 May 1986, President Eric Arturo Delvalle told Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo that it was impossible for him to attend the Esquipulas meeting with the presidents of the five Central American republics due to a change in the date of this meeting.

Although Panama originally accepted the invitaion to participate in this meeting, it has been considered that the country must zealously safeguard its participation within the Contadora Group, and therefore, it is deemed advisable not to attend the meeting, avoiding a duality in regard to its position as a nation interested in achieving a peaceful and negotiated solution for the Central American isthmus.

Guillermo Antonio Adames

Secretary of Press and Information of the Presidency of the Republic

COMMENT, REPORTAGE ON THWARTED BOMBING OF PRESIDENT

Alfonsin Addresses Officers

PY212300 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2327 GMT 20 May 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 May (TELAM) -- Yesterday, a few hours after the discovery of an explosive device on the route the president was to travel, President Raul Alfonsin told III Army Corps officers that it is everyone's responsibility to decide whether one will struggle to strengthen peace in Argentina or whether one will allow bombings -- no more, no less. It seems that there are people who do not have a memory, but I am confident that the maturity and the patriotism of the men-in-arms will make their memory come back, Alfonsin added.

The text of the address the president delivered yesterday to the III Army Corps officers a few hours after the discovery of the thwarted attack was released tonight by a high-ranking official source. Alfonsin stressed the need to end the many years of decline. He warned that we will not achieve this through demagogic concessions but through work and honesty and by acting in accordance with the nation's goals, which are the only ones of interest and which should dictate our behavior, leading us to protect the Argentine way of life.

Alfonsin stated that this way of life is not only being attacked by extremists and by the stands adopted by the ultras. It is also being attacked by indifference, by everyone not trying to make the necessary efforts to gain a deeper knowledge of the problems and thus avoid making superficial assessments and being the victims of slander campaigns that have nothing to do with the responsibility everyone must assume in life. There is no point of talking about the extremists on either side, the fanatics, those who have covered the country with blood, Alfonsin stated.

Alfonsin added: this is a time demanding serious responsibilities from the entire Argentine leadership, and I feel supported by the Argentine Armed Forces leadership. They may or may not agree with all the positions adopted by the executive branch, but I am not concerned about that. I amy only concerned about the fact that they agree with our nation's Constitution. Alfonsin advocated the construction of an honorable, respected, and strong Argentina, and he warned that no one should be misled by mistaken ideas. He added: Through our efforts -- which all of you and everyone else knows -- we have demonstrated our willingness to achieve peace and to overcome disagreements within Argentine society.

A few extremists will remain on both sides, but they will not succeed in dividing us. He added: We will continue to travel along the same path, and we will continue to make mistakes. But let us try to make as few mistakes as possible and let us stay on course. We know that just around the corner we are still exposed to the risk posed by those who seek to return to a past that all of us definitely wanted to forget, Alfonsin said. Let us look to the future, and then march as is appropriate. I am not going to disappoint anyone, Alfonsin concluded.

Military Involvement Viewed

PY211923 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0811 GMT 21 May 86

[By Alberto Francisco Arevalos]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 May (EFE) -- According to a high-ranking government source the Argentine Government feels that the thwarted attempt to take the life of President Raul Alfonsin was "in earnest."

The source added that although the government was "patiently" awaiting the results of the investigation, it was not ruling out the possibility of the chief executive issuing "political measures." The president "could replace high-ranking Army officers because of their responsibility in the event."

Amid criticisms of the attack coming from various political sectors. many people have been asking themselves whether democracy can truly coexist with the remnants of the previous military regime. At this point the attention is being drawn to the various "intelligence services," which are groups that participated in the illegal repression of terrorism and are also being blamed for the latest bombings against a dozen or so offices of the ruling Radical Civic Union.

This "unemployed manpower," as Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli once called it, is ideologically close to the hardliners of the Armed Forces and appears to be prepared to launch a campaign of provocation, according to what a high-ranking government spokesman told EFE. In this regard, the Argentine human rights organizations today reiterated their demands that the repressive structure should be dismantled, a "pending task" for Alfonsin's administration.

Even within the UCR the issue is being discussed. Most members of the party agree that it is impossible to coexist with the "services" as they are commonly known in Argentina, but they are also aware that it would be difficult to dismantle these organizations that operate on the basis of personal loyalty and political commitmennts. In any case, the mere fact that a bomb intended for the chief executive was found at a militry regiment reveals that large Argentine sectors have no use for democracy. In this regard most politicians are aware that no civilian can walk into a military regiment and gain access to premises where the president of the nation is scheduled to speak a few hours later without being arrested by the soldiers standing guard. President Alfonsin knows this, but he does not seem to be, at least for the time being, ready to make drastic changes in the military leadership, at least until the responsibilities of military officers and commanders connected with the affair are duly clarified.

Deputy Cesar Jaroslavskiy stated tonight that "the investigation is in the hands of the courts and it will be up to them to define the responsibilties." it is to be hoped that the courts will carry out this task with the utmost speed for the life of a president and the future of a people are at stake.

Questions Persist

PY212124 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 21 May 86 p 11

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- Questions persisted yesterday over a moderate-strength bomb found in a Cordoba military base while President Raul Alfonsin watched military exercises on Monday. Army Chief-of-Staff Hector Rios Erenu vowed to investigate the incident. Rios Erenu attributed the bomb attempt to "misfits" who are trying to give the country "a different image and character" and said the Army will take "suitable measures" to investigate. Playing down the incident, Rios Erenu said he doubted the bomb was intended to go off and said Monday's incident and earlier bomb attacks on Radical offices and Senator Vicente Saadi "mean nothing more than an element of perturbation".

Police investigations began yesterday amid unanswered questions over the power of the bomb, how it got into the base, and whether it could have exploded.

Police sources said the device consisted of two 450-gram sticks of trotyl inside a 120-millimetre artillery cartridge and would have exploded over a radius of a least 150 metres. Connected to it was a 40-metre-long cable which, contrary to earlier reports, was not linked to any power source needed to set off the bomb. The explosive was discovered by pure chance by a policeman, said police. The bomb had been placed inside the military base at a spot where nobody without proper identification could have entered. Still unclear was how the bomb was not discovered during a strict security check over the entire base two hours before and how the bomb could have been placed there without the 100-odd military officers attending Alfonsin nearby noticing.

Early reports said the bomb was found between 60 and 100 metres from where Alfonsin had detonated a cannon as part of military exercises, but sources yesterday said Alfonsin actually came as close as 30 metres. Contradictory reports continued on whether the bomb could have been set off, with Defence Minister German Lopez saying the bomb was unable to explode and was deliberately placed "to be discovered".

But sources last night said top officials were treating the bomb attempt as a genuine effort to assassinate Alfonsin and not merely part of "psychological manoeuvre". Sources added that Third Army Corps Commander General Ignacio Anibal Verdura, based in Cordoba, may offer his resignation over the incident and that other changes may be in the offing. Verdura yesterday spoke before Cordoba Judge Miguel Rodriguez Villafane, who is investigating the incident. Rios Erenu strongly denied that he would resign at a ceremony in the old Cabildo with Alfonsin last night. The two later walked together across the Plaza de Mayo in an apparent show of mutual support.

Alfonsin was said to have reacted coolly to the bomb attempt and continued with his planned schedule during the visit to Cordoba.

Meanwhile, a bomb went off early yesterday in front of a neighborhood Radical office in Rosario, causing extensive damage but no injuries. The bomb was similar to devices used in attacks on eight other Radical offices in Buenos Aires last Friday. Radical, Peronist, and other opposition leaders condemned the Cordoba incident, Catamarca's Peronist governor Ramon Saadi saying in a telegram to Alfonsin that such attacks "seek the destruction of democratic life" and are "rejected by the totality of Argentines".

Presidential Chief-of-Staff Carlos Becerra said the attack was carried out by "civilian and military groups" who feel "assaulted by democracy and who say legality is killing us.".

Brazilian President Jose Sarney called Alfonsin yesterday in a gesture of solidarity, said presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez.

Judge on Investigation

PY220345 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 22 May 86

[Excerpts] The judicial investigations into the unsuccessful attack on President Alfonsin began in Cordoba today, while there were rumors about possible changes in the high ranks of the III Army Corps.

Judge Miguel Rodriguez Villafane, who is in charge of the investigations, talked to the press today about the case. He affirmed that no one has been arrested and that a reenactment of the case will be made on 26 May.

It has also been learned that Army Chief of Staff General Hector Rios Erenu reportedly has ordered III Corps Commander General Anibal Verdura to remain in Cordoba. According to reports, General Vedura must stay in the III Corps Headquarters during the investigations to clarify the unsuccessful attack. Gen Verdura had been scheduled to travel to Buenos Aires on 20 May to attend a meeting of Army commanders in the headquarters of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF ON DEMOCRATIC PROCESS, BOMBS

PY211940 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1059 GMT 20 May 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 May (NA) -- Army Chief of Staff General Hector Rios Erenu has stated that "the Armed Forces will contribute" to the current democratic process "by fulfilling its mission of service, acting in accordance with the indications provided for by the current circumstances, and providing absolute tranquillity to the nation by respecting the Constitution and the law." The Army chief of staff has thus supported remarks made yesterday by President Raul Alfonsin in the sense that the Armed Forces support the democratic process. Rio Erenu added that the president's remaks "are fully justified by facts" because the military institutions "want to contribute to the process of bailing Argentina out of its current problems."

He added that the military institutions must "be ready to fulfill all that which will lead to the achievement of the proposed objective, which is that of having a great Argentina free of the problems that it is facing today."

Regarding the court ruling in the trial against the military commanders responsible for the Malvinas war, Rios Erenu stated that "it is not a question of assessing the sentences to determine the severeness of the punishment, because the most important thing is the establishment and the fulfillment of the Armed Forces Supreme Council role of studying the case and of administering justice." He added that the Supreme Council "has taken the logical steps" to impose sentences in the trial against the military chiefs. He explained that "the opinion of each of the cadres" of the Armed Forces regarding the sentences "is absolutely personal," and that what is most important "is the institutional aspects." He explained in this regard that "the fulfillment, the respect, and the acceptance of the Supreme Council's ruling is implicit in our formation as institution," and "it is not up to us to question the decision of the judges." Rios Erenu added: "Of course this ruling can be appealed to the appropriate higher court." The lawyers of the sentenced military officers will be able to appeal the sentences to this court.

In remarks made yesterday to Radio Mitre of this capital, Rios Erenu ratified the remarks made by President Alfonsin in the sense that the Armed Forces support the democratic process. In this regard he said that his position "is fully ratified by facts in this new stage we are experiencing, because the Armed Forces have always wanted to contribute to the process of recovering Argentina, of bailing it out of current problems."

Referring to the attacks on offices of the Radical Civic Union, Rios Erenu denied that the explosive material used is one exclusively used by the military. He said: "The material is not exclusively used by anyone, but is a material used in different activities by different sectors of the nation." On this subject he said that "this is undoubtedly the work of maladjusted peopple who want to discredit this path of peace that democracy proposes for Argentina."

He said that "this fact is unique because of the manner in which it was conducted and the characteristics that it presents," but explained that "undoubtedly it is a police matter and we should not pay much attention to it."

Rios Erenu categorically refused to comment on the Sivak case because "this is a case in the hands of the courts." "I do not want to go into further details on this matter that will be explained in due time by the court and by the interior minister who will have to explain things appropriately," he stated.

UCR OFFICES ATTACKED IN ROSARIO, SAN LUIS

PY212225 [Editorial Report] Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish at 1320 GMT on 20 May reported in an item datelined Rosario that early this morning a bomb exploded in front of the southern branch offices of the Radical Civic Union [UCR] in Rosario, causing some material damage but no casualties. The explosion, which caused by a plastic bomb, occurred at 0220.

Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish at 1450 GMT on 20 May reported from San Luis that two offices of the UCR in San Luis were set on fire by unidentified individuals and that another attack on the San Luis UCR headquarters was prevented by policemen. UCR Deputy Javier Cacace reported that the fires in the two offices did not cause any major damage or casualties.

Cacace added that "this type of attack is causing moral damage to the republican institutions and democracy, which is the framework under which the UCR operates."

PRESIDENT ALFONSIN INVITED TO VISIT PRC

PY220314 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1446 GMT 21 May 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 May (TELAM) -- According to an EFE report from Beijing, the Argentine ambassador to the PRC, Hector A. Subiza, who is conlcuding his mission in Beijing after 5 years, has received an invitation from the PRC Government requesting that Argentine President Raul Alfonsin visit. Subiza, who has been the dean of the Latin American diplomatic corps in Beijing and who has been appointed the new Argentine ambassador to Brazil, was received by PRC Premier Zhao Ziyang, who expressed pleasure at the level of PRC-Argentine relations. Zhao Ziyang conveyed to the Argentine ambassador, on his behalf and on behalf of the Chinese people, an invitation for Argentine President Raul Alfonsin to visit Beijing.

FOREIGN MINISTRY CONDEMNS SOUTH AFRICAN RAIDS

PY212154 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 21 May 86 p 1

[Text] (DYN) -- The Argentine Government yesterday expressed its "deepest condemnation of the South African aggression against Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe" and reiterated its "rejection of institutionalized racial discrimination, which is at the root of these new attacks." A Foreign Ministry statement said the South African attacks were "acts of aggression" and a blatant violation of international law. The statement added that the Argentine Government would continue to fight for basic human rights, "which are the only guarantee of peace and the harmonious development and integration of South Africa with its neighbours."

SARNEY, DUARTE DISCUSS CENTRAL AMERICA, PEACE

PY211610 Rio de Janeiro Radio Globo Network in Portuguese 0300 GMT 21 May 86

[Text] Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte today arrived in Brasilia for a 2-day visit of a specifically political nature, concentrating on the peace issue for Central America. Presidents Duarte and Jose Sarney even discussed this matter briefly at the airport today. However, their principal meeting took place this afternoon in Planalto Palace.

The main subject discussed was the negotiated peace solution proposed by the Contadora Group. Next 6 June the Central American countries that form the Contadora Group will meet in Panama to sign a peace agreement. There is a possibility that Nicaragua may refuse to sign the document. Brazil, with Argentina, Uruguay, and Peru form the Support Group of the Contadora Group.

The importance of the Brazilian Government's political support was always present during the conversation between Duarte and Sarney. However, President Sarney stressed that Brazil maintains its policy of noninterference in the domestic matters of other countries, while it can simply express its support to try to end conflicts in the American continent. The president also expressed its support to try to end conflicts in the American continent. The president also expressed his hope that the South American democratization process should extend to all of Central America.

Sign Agreements

PY211722 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia in Portuguese 1000 GMT 21 May 86

[Text] El Salvador's support of the Contadora Group and Brazil's determination that the negotiatons should lead to the establishment of peace in Central America are the two main subjects discussed by Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte during a meeting held with President Jose Sarney referring to the Central American crisis. The two presidents held a 50-minute meeting during which they also discussed bilateal issues and the international coffee agreements. President Sarney also reiterated that Brazil grants priority treatment to its relations with other Latin American countries.

During President Napoleon Duarte's visit to Brasilia three agreements were signed between Brazil and El Salvador. One of the agreements provided for the exemption of visas for official diplomatic passports. The other agreements provide for the technical scientific and technological cooperation and for the renewal of the already existing cultural agreements.

President Napoleon Duarte arrived in Brazil after visiting Argentina, Peru, Costa Rica, and Uruguay which form the Contadora Support Group.

ITAMARATY NOTE REPUDIATES S. AFRICAN ATTACK

PY200154 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 19 May 86

[Text] Itamaraty released tonight a note repudiating the attacks on the territories of Bostwana, Zimbabwe, and Zambia by South African troops. The note says that the repeated violence exercised against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of countries bordering South Africa by its Armed Forces caused deep concern for the Brazilian Government. Brazil conveys to the Governments of Bostwana, Zimbabwe, and Zambia its greatest solidarity.

In the note, Itamaraty emphasizes that the continuous disrespect for the norms of the UN Charter and international coexistence shown by the government of South Africa seriously jeopardizes the possibility of seeking a peaceful solution to the problems affecting the southern region of the African Continent.

EXPERTS TO TEST EUROPEAN FOODS FOR RADIATION

PY211439 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia in Portuguese 1000 GMT 21 May 86

[Excerpts] The National Commission for Nuclear Energy [CNEN] will examine all foodstuffs imported from Europe to monitor levels of radioactivity following the Chernobyl accident. This information was disclosed by Jose Pintos, Agriculture Ministry secretary for animal inspection.

The 110,000 tons of beef to be imported by Brazil from the EEC is not contaminated with radioactive substances. This has been guaranteed by the executive secretary of the Inter-Ministry Supply Council, (Joao Busto Riveros), who said that the beef had already been packed when the nuclear accident occured and added that Brazilian experts in Europe are closely following the precautionary analysis being carried out by the EEC authorities. The beef is scheduled to arrive in Brazil during the second half of this year.

CHERNOBYL ACCIDENT AFFECTS IMPORTS, EXPORTS

PY211403 Rio de Janeiro Radio Globo Network in Portuguese 0300 GMT 21 May 86

[Text] The Chernobyl nuclear powerplant accident, and the resulting contamination of animals and foodstuffs, may cause an upsurge in poultry exports from Brazil to the USSR and the EEC. Poultry producers believe that after dropping considerably last year, exports of this commodity will improve this year.

It is expected that the milk supply to large cities in Brazil will improve within 1 week, even though the government has decided to cancel the purchase of 20,000 tons of powdered milk from the EEC because of possible contamination from the Chernobyl powerplant accident.

According to Agriculture Minister Iris Resende, the powdered milk will now be imported from the United States, and a 30-percent subsidy for dairy producers will be an emergency policy that will enable Brazilian dairy producers to cover the short term domestic demand for this commodity.

GOVERNMENT MINISTER ON ECHEVERRIA KIDNAPPING

PA211914 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 1827 GMT 21 May 86

[Text] The demands made by a terrorist group in exchange for the life of Enrique Echeverria, a member of the court of constitutional guarantees [TGC] who was kidnapped, coincide with those made by various political parties, Government Minister Luis Robles has maintained.

A [word indistinct] search operation is under way throughout the country to find Echeverria, and the government is not willing to yield to the demands of the terrorist group called the Free Homeland Montoneros.

[Begin Robles recording] I imagine that you have a copy of the statement, but if you do not have it I will give you a copy. [Words indistinct] a political petition that does not hide its intentions. Apart from [words indistinct] the integrity and the life of Echeverria, a respectable man linked with important media, a man who has been the president of the National Journalists' (?Association), and who deserves the friendship and comradeship of many of you, should not be the victim of this kind of act.

If one carefully analyzes the text of the statement received by the TGC, one gathers that it has an obvious political intent. It refers to several actions of the TGC and tries to involve Echeverria in them. [Words indistinct] intentions that should not exist.

[Words indistinct] to the TGC to respond [passage indistinct] human rights violations and other factors. [Word indistinct] would like to know if now, in the same way, human rights defenders ignored the case of [names indistinct] and are also going to ignore the case of Echeverria and if they are going to applaud the kidnapping of him by those who [word indistinct] claim rights and the respect for human rights.

Violence is not the way to fight violence, if such is the case. The national police and all its agencies are taking the pertinent measures, as they always do, to safeguard, I repeat, the integrity and the life of Echeverria and to find him. But I honestly believe that a certain background [words indistinct] by the government, particularly the president of the Republic himself, [words indistinct] we will not yield to any blackmail to try to satisfy perverse intentions that are clearly evident in the text of the statement which is already known to the public.

There is a tremendous coincidence between the way in which certain political sectors have been [words indistinct] the electoral campaign [words indistinct] in this statement.

If you make a careful analysis of it, I repeat, you will see that there is a [passage indistinct] by this same statement you know about.

I am convinced that the country will repudiate and reject this. I am sure that the TGC, regardless of any decision it makes, will reject this type of action. I hope that the actions taken will allow us to find Echeverria as soon as possible. [end recording]

ARGENTINE TV BROADCASTS OPPOSITION MATERIAL

PY211350 [Editorial Report] Formosa LT 88 Television in Spanish, broadcasting from Formosa and its repeater station in Clorinda, both towns close to the Paraguayan border, has been observed carrying material related to the activities of Paraguayan opposition politicians both inside and outside the country during its 2300 GMT "Noticiero Once" evening newscast.

On 12 May the Formosa television carried two items on a march organized in Formosa by political organizations that oppose General Alfredo Stroessner's regime in Paraguay, and an interview with exiled Paraguayan Authentic Radical Liberal Party [PLRA] leader Domingo Laino published in the 16 May Latin America DAILY REPORT.

The station on 13 May broadcast an interview with Radical Civic Union [UCR] provincial Deputy Carlos Lins, who criticized the behavior of Formosa Governor Floro Bogado, a Peronist, for attending a Colorado Party rally in Paraguay oan 2 May, wearing the traditional party bandanna and publicly expressing support for Stroessner while on an official trip. Deputy Lins indicated that he has submitted a bill to the Formosa Legislative Assembly proposing that trips of the provincial executive be examined more closely.

On 14 May the Formosa television station carried a short interview with Domingo Laino, who described the economic situation in Paraguay as critical, citing high unemployment figures and widespread government corruption. Laino said that the independent nation of the past has been replaced by a country dependent on smuggling and foreign support. He remarked that while 300,000 foreigners live in Paraguay, over 1 million Paraguayans are compelled to live abroad. The Argentine television station also displayed a copy of a letter that Chaco Province Governor Florencio Tenev had sent to General Alfredo Stroessner on 4 May, congratulating the latter on his 32d anniversary in power. It also carried a short report on an opposition-sponsored mass in Asuncion to commemorate Independence Day and on the meeting that the opposition later held at the Febrerista Revolutionary Party [PRF] headquarters. The Formosa TV channel cited Radio Nanduti of Asuncion as its source, adding that this radio station was being constantly jammed by unidentified parties.

On 15 May Formosa television carried a clip of a rally of PLRA and other Paraguayan opposition parties held at the UCR provincial headquarters in Resistencia, the capital of Chaco Province. The rally featured several speakers of Paraguayan opposition parties in exile and representatives of Argentine parties. The keynote speaker was Domingo Laino, who said, among other things, that "the 14th of May is the proper time to reflect on the past, because on this date in 1811 a handful of brave men tore away imperial chains and at the same time established a unique and successful development model." Laino went on to say that "this model has been distorted by Alfredo Stroessner's dictatorship to the point that 1 million Paraguayans now live abroad." Speaking about the most recent situation in Paraguay, Laino stated that "at this very minute my fellow countrymen are being brutally beaten for demanding better wages and for wanting a pluralist democracy and the end to continuing violations of their most essential rights."

At the end of the rally, Laino was interviewed on the letter that Chaco Governor Florencio Tenev sent to General Alfredo Stroessner on his 32d anniversary in power. Laino said: "Without the slightest intention of involving myself in domestic problems of this Argentine province I would like to point out that Governor Tenev has congratulated Stroessner on behalf of the people and government of Chaco Province. I would like to say in this regard that the Chaco people at least have no wish to congratulate Stroessner.

"The people of this province in general, but the UCR, certain Peronist sectors and the Intrasigent Party especially, have extended to us their solidarity, as you can see from their presence at this rally. Therefore, it would have been all right for the governor to extend his personal greetings to Stroessner, but I feel that he has made a mistake by doing so on behalf of the people of Chaco Province, because I am sure that the people of this province can never express support for violations of human rights, for a totalitarian state in which dissidents are tortured, thrown into dungeons, and so forth."

On 16 May Formosa LT 88 Television carried an interview with Otelo Stamponi, secretary for international relations of the Argentine Christian Democratic Party [PDC], who participated in the opposition-sponsored mass and subsequent meeting at the headquarters of the PRF. After describing the preventive and intimidatory measures of the local authorities, Stamponi said that Paraguayans are beginning to lose their fears of the regime and are now standing up to it. He confirmed that over 1,500 persons attended the opposition meeting and said that roadblocks on highways from the interior prevented many more people from attending. Asked for a message to all Paraguayan people, Stamponi said: "As a leader of the PDC and an Argentine citizen, I would like to urge the Paraguayan people to keep struggling because democracy means social justice, human dignity, and respect for human rights. One must struggle to attain democracy. This struggle does not imply words alone, but also attitudes and actions. In sum, the regime must be compelled to give up the leadership of the country." The television station also carried an interview with Jose Arguello, a youth leader of the Peronist Renewal Movement in Buenos Aires, who also participated in the opposition meeting in Asuncion on 14 May. Arguello confirmed the "impressive police and military cordon" around the headquarters of the PRF and the presence of "parapolice groups." He said that despite these intimidatory displays, the Paraguayan people "who have been accumulating fears during the dictatorship that is now more than 30 years old, are beginning to lose these fears little by little." He added that "the 14 of May launched a new phase" in the struggle against the dictatorship, indicating that "undoubtedly this will be along struggle but there is no stopping it." Arguello concluded by saying: "I am sure that the Paraguayan people are well aware of the true position of the Peronist rank and file, above and beyond the attitude that certain leaders may display toward President Stroessner. They realize that the Peronist people are side by side with them in their struggle for the recovery of democracy."

FRG DIPLOMAT WITHDRAWN IN WAKE OF INCIDENT

PY211506 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0134 GMT 20 May 86

[Text] Asuncion, 20 May (EFE) -- The FRG Embassy in Asuncion has confirmed that diplomat Armin Steuer, who was involved in an incident with the police during an antigovernment demonstration, has been withdrawn from Paraguay. The FRG Embassy spokesman said that Steuer's transfer took place because his "tour of duty had ended," adding that this transfer had been decided long before the diplomat was attacked and arrested by the Paraguayan Police, less than 3 weeks ago, during an antigovernment demonstration. Steuer, press attache to the embassy, said that at the demonstration he was accompanying a FRG state television crew which was also attacked and arrested. This incident prompted the FRG to file a diplomatic protest to the Paraguayan Government, which offered its excuses, explaining that Steuer was frequently present during activities organized by General Alfredo Stroessner's opponents. During the diplomatic incident, local newspapers published paid advertisements accusing Steuer of issuing worthless checks worth DM29,500 some 8 months ago. The checks, together with unpaid promissory notes and various letters on the matter, exchanged between a local exchange shop, the Badische Beamtenbank, and the FRG Embassy in Asuncion, were also published. An FRG diplomatic spokesman stated that the charges are "a personal matter about which we have nothing to say."

CUBAN VICE PRESIDENT ARRIVES ON OFFICIAL VISIT

PY212259 Paris AFP in Spanish 2206 GMT 21 May 86

[Text] Lima, 21 May (AFP) -- Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez this afternoon arrived in Lima for a 1 and 1/2-day official visit, during which he will meet with President Alan Garcia. The airplane carrying Rodriguez landed at the Air Force base adjacent to the international airport at 1505 (2005 GMT). Rodriguez was welcomed by Peruvian Prime Minister and Vice President Luis Alva Castro, Foreign Ministry personnel, and Cuban Ambassador Francisco Ramos.

Tonight at 1800 Rodriguez will receive Foreign Minister Allan Wagner in the Cuban Embassy, and 2 hours later he will host a reception in the Cuban Embassy to honor Peruvian officials. On 22 May at 0900 Rodriguez will hold a working breakfast with President Alan Garcia and Foreign Minister Wagner in Government Palace. Rodriguez will then have lunch with Prime Minister Luis Alva Castro in a downtown hotel. In the afternoon, Rodriguez will greet the presidents of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate. His departure for Buenos Aires is scheduled for just after midnight on 23 May.

ANTIREBEL OPERATION UNDERWAY; CELL BROKEN UP

PY212141 Paris AFP in Spanish 1653 GMT 21 May 86

[Text] Lima, 21 May (AFP) -- The military authorities today reported in Lima that a task force made up of 300 troops, armored vehicles, and helicopters has been sent after the guerrillas who ambushed an Army patrol in Ayacucho. During the clash a sublieutenant and four subversives were killed and four soldiers wounded.

The Armed Forces Joint Command has issued a communique stating that on 18 May an Army patrol clashed with approximately 60 armed communist terrorists in Runsuyco Alto, Huanta Province, Ayacucho Department, with the resulting casualties. The communique provided the names of the wounded -- two sergeants, a corporal, and a private -- but did not name the extremists who died.

The dragnet operation, one of the largest in the last 2 years, started yesterday in the area of Huamanquilla, Macachacra and Razuhilca, on the Andean slopes, where according to a military commander in Huanta, the extremists have their strongholds. It was reported that in this operation, which is being carried out with the help of armored vehicles and armored helicopters, the soldiers are using a new combat uniform which permits better deployment.

Meanwhile, it has been discovered that the downing of several high-voltage pylons and the various blackouts that Lima has experienced in recent years was the work of a cell led by Alex Vicente Rivadeneyra, a student of the School of Economy at Villarreal National University. Rivadeneyra was arrested recently with 300 other suspects and confessed his activities at the Antiterrorist Directorate (Dircote). Rivadeneyra, who has been turned over to the courts, explained in detail that he operated in Chosica, Santa Eulalia, Chaclacayo, and Vitarte, southeast of Lima, where he toppled several pylons. He reported that he obtained the dynamite from Isaac Baldeon, who used to work at a mine in Chilca, 25 km south of Lima. According to the police, Baldeon also has been arrested.

DE LA MADRID, ENVOY TO U.S. VIEW SENATE HEARINGS

PA211814 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 21 May 86

[Text] Yesterday afternoon President Miguel de la Madrid received in private audience the Mexican ambassador to the United States, Jorge Espinoza de los Reyes, who had been called to the country to report on his embassy's performance in connection with the problem that emerged recently as a result of statements made by a U.S. Senate subcommittee.

It can be recalled that Ambassador Jorge Espinosa delivered a protest note from the Mexican Government to the U.S. Government because of the charges of official corruption connected with drug-trafficking activities in Mexico.

BRIEFS

DRUG TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED -- Five drug traffickers carrying 226 kg of cocaine in 19 suitcases aboard an airplane have been arrested following a shootout with federal policemen in San Luis, Rio Colorado, Sonora. Three drug traffickers were killed, and one police commander and one narcotics agent were wounded in the confrontation. [Summary] [Mexico City XHDF Television Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 20 May 86 PA]

FDP ON LEADERSHIP CHANGES, F-8 GROUP

PA211842 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 21 May 86 p 1

[By Jose Quintero de Leon]

[Text] The Panama Defense Forces [FDP], through Major Edgardo Lopez Grimaldo, FDP spokesman and director of public relations, have denied that preparations are under way to retire Colonel Roberto Diaz Herrera, chief of staff and second in the hierarchy of the military institution.

Last weekend LA PRENSA learned from unofficial sources that the retirement of the prominent militaryman and nephew [as published; Colonel Diaz Herrera is Omar Torrijos' cousin] of deceased General Omar Torrijos Herrera was imminent.

However, Lopez Grimaldo stressed that all armed institutions, including the FDP, make routine promotions, retirements, transfers, and discharges.

Lopez Grimaldo was then asked about the much-publicized "F-8" paramilitary group. He said that the only thing he knows about it is what he has read in QUIUBO [GRAFICO] and LA PRENSA. In his opinion, "the group is no more than a figment of the imagination of idle people who are always trying to stir up trouble."

"For the FDP, that group or organization DOES NOT EXIST!" [upper case passage as published] Maj Lopez said emphatically. He added that an 'F-9' group could appear any time depending on the state of mind of those given to inventing such things." [quotation marks as published]

CORRECTION TO F-8 ORDERS ON OPPOSITION

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "F-8 Orders To 'Eliminate' Opposition Leaders," published on pages N 3-4 of the 16 May Latin America DAILY REPORT:

The sourceline should read: Panama City QUIUBO GRAFICO in Spanish 15-22 May 86 p 5 ... (correcting date)

GUATEMALA

FOREIGN MINISTER DISAGREES WITH PENTAGON DOCUMENT

PA220306 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0227 GMT 22 May 86

[Text] Guatemala City, 21 May (ACAN-EFE) -- Foreign Minister Mario Quinonez Amezquita expressed his disapproval today of the document drafted by the Pentagon which says that the Contadora peace plan will not guarantee peace in Central America. "The document published by THE NEW YORK TIMES does not represent the U.S. Government's view, it is the view of the U.S. Army," Foreign Minister Quinonez Amezquita said. "The Pentagon's opinion is not President Ronald Reagan's opinion," he said, while adding that a U.S. military intervention in Nicaragua "is not the solution" and he does not think that it will take place as a last alternative.

According to the Pentagon document, the probable violation by Nicaragua of the Contadora peace plan could give Washington a pretext to send its troops to the region. Quinonez Amezquita is of the opinion that the plan proposed by Contadora and which the Central American countries have to sign on 6 June, can solve the regional conflict. He added that in principle a formula which is fair to all should be sought, in which every country agrees to guarantee its security and no one feels threatened by its neighbor. Foreign Minister Quinonez Amezquita said that Contadora and the Central American parliament, proposed by President Vinicio Cerezo, are instruments to obtain peace, because "they have the political will of the five countries of the area."

SHOTS FIRED AT BORDER POST NEAR ESQUIPULAS

PA220400 Paris AFP in Spanish 0037 GMT 22 May 86

[Text] Guatemala City, 21 May (AFP) -- According to an Army report, an armed incident at the border post of Nueva Anguiatu, between Guatemala and El Salvador, caused alarm today at the military detachment in the area. The Army report stated that early this morning "random shots" were fired at the area's detachment. The Guatemalan soldiers returned the fire, however, no casualties were reported. The military post is located on the border with El Salvador in the municipality of Asuncion Mita, Jutiapa Department, 50 km east of Esquipulas.

The military report stated that because of the direction of the shots it is believed that the harassment could have come from Salvadoran rebels. According to the military sources, Anguiatu is the border connection post for the railway lines between Guatemala and El Salvador. However, because of scant railroad traffic between the two countries, the number of soldiers stationed there is small. This incident has occurred only 2 days before the presidents of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica are to meet in Esquipulas to discuss peace in Central America. As a protective measure, this region has been semi-militarized.

HONDURAS

AZCONA PESSIMISTIC ON CONTADORA, ESQUIPULAS

PA211648 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 21 May 86

[Interview with President Jose Azcona by Andres Torres Rodriguez "last night"; place not given -- recorded]

[Excerpt] [Torres] Mr President: The meeting of plenipotentiary representatives in Panama has ended. We understand that Nicaragua did not agree to negotiate the reduction of defensive weapons but only of offensive weapons. This clashes with the position maintained by Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala. What is your view on this?

[Azcona] They maintain that a line must be drawn between offensive and defensive armaments. They claim that the AT-24 [as heard], a sophisticated helicopter gunship which I believe not even the United States has a helicopter to match -- it is Soviet-made -- and the T-55 tanks are defensive weapons. I believe that, unfortunately, we will get nowhere with positions like this one.

We attend these meetings with a spirit of understanding. We held a National Defense Council meeting at which the Armed Forces agreed that the Armed Forces must be kept within reasonable limits with regard to the so-called valuable units [as heard]. It appears that these people are not interested in reaching any agreement, and this greatly concerns us, because we will attend the Esquipulas meeting willing to exchange views to attain peace in Central America. We want to achieve peace to allow the flow of foreign investment and the promotion of tourist plans, but this situation makes things difficult. It seems that there is a lack of interest in reaching a settlement. I do not believe the document can be signed on 6 June as we are willing to do.

[Torres] Do you believe this will lead to an eventual military confrontation?

[Azcona] No. Honduras will never attack Nicaragua. We have said this many times. To begin with, we are not prepared for something like that, and in the second place, I do not believe this administration, the Armed Forces, or any Honduran wants war. I also do not believe that the United States will invade Nicaragua, much less using Honduran territory for that. However, the irregular situations will continue. The number of refugees that enter Honduras will increase. Problems will increase. I believe the counterrevolution will not cease to operate so long as the situation prevailing in Nicaragua continues. It appears that those who are in power are not willing to relinquish it.

In Honduras we know that power is a very relative and ephemeral thing that must not make anyone arrogant. It is transitory. Over there it seems that they are planning to stay and that the other Nicaraguans will not be given any political outlet. That will perpetuate the internal situation.

[Torres] What are your expectations on the Esquipulas meeting as it applies to Honduras?

[Azcona] I do not think it will mean much. Frankly, we will attend to fulfill an obligation to a head of state of another country. We will go with an open mind, willing to sign a document that will probably not resolve the problems, but will not make relations any worse than they already are.

We have said time and again that we wish the Nicaraguan Government or people no harm. However, we do believe there must be an opening or solution so that things in that country can be like in Honduras. We do not have counter revolutionaries or political prisoners. There are sometimes abused of authority, but those things are inevitable. We maintain a more or less open line of communication with all sectors.

NICARAGUA

GOVERNMENT COMMUNIQUE REJECTS PENTAGON DOCUMENT

PA220248 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0155 GMT 22 May 86

[Excerpts] Managua, 21 May (ACAN-EFE) -- The Sandinist Government termed a document drafted by the Pentagon as an "interventionist threat" in Central America and a "rejection" of the Contadora Group. The Foreign Ministry issued a communique today which says "there is definitely no guarantee that the United States will stood its aggression against Nicaragua if it signs the contadora peace plan."

Last Monday the Pentagon issued a document in which according to the Foreign Ministry it openly says "that the signing of the Contadora plan could lead the United States to a massive military intervention in Nicaragua." The Foreign Ministry fears that "in this respect, the commitments agreed upon will not prevent the United States from continuing its brutal aggression against the Nicaraguan people."

In the communique, the Foreign Minitry says that the "statements made by the Pentagon are just more evidence that the U.S. Government has really never and effectively supported the efforts made by the Contadora Group." In the communique, the Sandinists reiterate "the fairness of the Nicaraguan positions contained in the proposal submitted in Panama" 3 days ago. In its proposal, Nicaragua offered to negotiate the quantity of offensive arms and the prohibition of the foreign military maneuvers in the area.

D'ESCOTO ON PROPOSAL TO CONTADORA IN PANAMA

PA220345 Managua International Service in Spanish 0020 GMT 22 May 86

[Statements by Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman on 21 May; place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Words indistinct] the Nicaraguan Government's official stance during the meeting in Panama. I want to refer to the distortion and the campaign of lies that the U.S. Government is carrying out. I will explain Nicaragua's stance, which is no secret at all. (?You) received, and I understand that all of you did, the document that we delivered to Contadora in Panama, in which we made our proposals. Asked about his opinion of the Nicaraguan proposal and stance presented at Panama over the weekend, the U.S. State Department spokesman Redman said that this Nicaraguan proposal is aimed at delaying negotiations on the limitation of armaments until after the document has been signed. This is not Nicaragua's proposal. That is Contadora's peoples have been saying they are willing to sign. Nicaragua respects this proposal and does not want to change it. It is not a Nicaraguan innovation.

[Words indistinct] This is not a Nicaraguan innovation. This is Contadora's stance and even the one that the other countries have been advocating.

So this is an ill-intentioned misrepresentation of our stance because it tries to pressure the public and portray Nicaragua as trying to make changes regarding the possibility or not of negotiating the limitations of armaments prior to or after the signing of the document, in case it is signed. Mr Redman also said that Nicaragua's proposal mentions the freezing of arms purchases only. [Words indistinct] in the papers Nicaragua's proposal and it does not mention freezing of purchases, but of acquisition of arms. So, his is a solemn lie, as if we were trying to do something [words indistinct] that does not have anything to do with Nicaragua. Also, this proposal of ours is not a trick or gambit. We are serious people. We express our thoughts very clearly. Again, Nicaragua's proposal has been tainted with lies. He finally said that Nicaragua does not make a difference between offensive and defensive armament. We said at the outset that we are not interested in philosophical talks or conversations about which arms are offensive and which are defensive. Such differentation could take many years and it would never end. What we want -- and this is our proposal -- is that the area countries (?determine) the type of weapons that they would regard as offensive armament to the effect of this possible regional agreement and, therefore, subject to inventory and limitation.

Therefore, as I told you last week, it is obvious that an indispensible element of U.S. diplomacy is pressure, even armed pressure and covert war, as an element of persuasion. However, I also told you that another indispensable element was lying, and here you have the proof. This came from a high....[changes thought] This was not a newsman but a State Department spokesman, who tried to explain our position and totally distorted it. It has nothing to do with our position. It cannot be said, either, that he did not have an opportunity to learn about it because it was made public. The document is there and therefore you will now be able to determine the truthfulness of all I am telling you.

This is fundamentally what I wanted to tell you. However, I also wanted to refer to this Pentagon document which has been made public in the United States, and which is at the heart of a heated debate within the Reagan administration, in which charges and countercharges are being hurled at each other by the State Department and the Defense Department. The State Department says that this document was drafted under contract by experts hired by the Defense Department and that it was not drafted in the Defense Department itself. However, the defense undersecretary says that this is absolutely false; that it is a document drafted by Defense Department experts who consulted with people from the National Security Council, who have been long known to officials of the State Department and other U.S. departments which also cooperated in the drafting of the document.

Fundamentally, the document says Nicaragua....[changes thought] It takes for granted beforehand that Nicaragua will not comply with any commitment and that the signing of the Contadora act by Nicaragua will result in an inevitable invasion of Nicaragua. Therefore, we can now see, as Representative Hamilton says himself, that this document contains the evidence -- for those who still wanted to give the United States the benefit of the doubt -- that the United States has never been interested in the signing of the Contadora document.

OFFICIAL BELIEVES COUNTRY WILL SIGN CONTADORA

PA211729 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1212 GMT 21 May 86

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Bonn, 21 May DPA -- Voicing his personal opinion, a Nicaraguan Government adviser said today that all the Central American countries will sign the Contadora Document on 6 June.

Oscar Vargas, a member of the Nicaraguan executive branch's team of advisers in international politics, told DPA that he believes that "all the Central American countries will sign the Contadora document for peace and cooperation in Central America." He added: "The problem as I see it is whether the agreement will be complied with. The U.S. political commitments come in at this point; that is, whether the United States does or does not want to comply with the agreement the countries signed."

"The United States, Vargas noted, has stated that it does not feel it has a bearing on the signing. And 2 or 3 days ago, the U.S. secretary of defense stated that the signing of the Contadora Document would only bring about a direct U.S. intervention. The fundamental reason is, he added, that Washington does not want to change its Central American policies: It is going to continue supporting the counterrevolution and maintaining the bases, military advisers, and Marines in Honduras."

The contras who make up the Nicaraguan Opposition Unity (UNO) are focusing their internal discussions on what tactics to follow. The 6 June signing, he said, creates a new political juncture in Nicaragua and abroad, and the contras will have to see how they "adapt" to it.

"The two alternatives which the contras are apparently discussing -- political dialogue with the Sandinist government, or an escalation of military pressure -- hints at their weakness." Abandoning the military option, based on the tactic proposed by former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger of mixing diplomatic negotiatioins with military pressure, would be at odds with the thinking of the Reagan administration, Vargas added. "In this case, one would have to be fearful of an open U.S. intervention, he concluded.

OAS ENVOY CRITICIZES U.S. 'MANIPULATION'

PA160433 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 15 May 86 p 7

[Text] The first "argument" the United States uses against Nicaragua is that the revolution did not fulfill the promises it made in June 1979 at the OAS, "but the revolutionary government has only made promises to the Nicaraguan people." Nicaraguan OAS Ambassador Edgard Parrales, discussing the OAS with reporters, recalled that the Nicaraguan Government plan was not subject to any approval whatsoever, or to the OAS, or any other international organization. The United States has not called a meeting of the OAS Consultative Council to discuss Nicaragua's failure to fulfill its promises "because it has no foundation on which to do so," he said, emphasizing that the Reagan administration simply uses this argument at a "propagandist level, as a mechanism of manipulation."

"The United States knows that if it calls a meeting of American foreign ministers, its accusation would hold no water," the diplomat said. Parrales said that the historical foreign ministers' meeting established that what is happening in Nicaragua is Nicaragua's affair. "Standards cannot be imposed on states because states are sovereign," he said.

In regard to the changes made within the multinational organization, Parrales said there are three tendencies that influence its definition, but that democratization and a more Latin American representation of the region's interests prevail. He said that "there is a greater awareness" of democracy than in the sixties and seventies, which is also the result of the consolidation of democratic regimes such as Venezuela's, and the reemergence of the "new democracies," such as Uruguay and Argentina.

Parrales pointed out that the Contadora and Lima Groups have also influenced the democratization process, although a great deal is yet to be done in order to achieve that "OAS idealized by the Latin American peoples." The spectre of the United States is always present.

Parrales also said that several countries have requested Cuba's reinstatement in the OAS. The OAS has 32 members including Cuba, but due to the latter's expulsion during the sixties its votes are not valid. Only 31 votes are counted. Parrales said that at the extraordinary meeting held last December it was agreed that the principle of ideological pluralism would be accepted, whereby states of any ideological leaning could be represented at the OAS.

FDN SEEKS TO RELEASE FRG CITIZENS IN MANAGUA

PA211837 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1815 GMT 21 May 86

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 21 May (ACAN-EFE) -- The anti-Sandinist FDN wants to release in Managua the eight FRG volunteer workers captured last Saturday on the Atlantic coast of Nicaragua. Honduran ham operators have managed to intercept communications between the rebels and the Sandinist high command negotiating the terms for the return of the FRG citizens, the time and manner of which were not defined.

According to the report by the Honduran ham operators, the FDN has asked the Sandinist regime to permit it to release the Germans in Managua to representatives of the International Red Cross and German diplomatic personnel accredited in the Nicaraguan capital. The only request by the rebels, according to the Honduran ham operators, is that of "absolute guarantees" for the lives and liberty of the anti-Sandinists who will turn over the Germans.

The FDN admitted yesterday in Tegucigalpa that it had captured the Germans last Saturday in the garrisons of a Zelaya Department community on the Atlantic coast, after several hours of fighting. The rebel organization neither confirmed nor denied possibilities that the release of the German volunteer workers might take place in Tegucigalpa or any other part of Honduran territory on the Nicaraguan border. A warning was reiterated to foreigners who are currently in Nicaragua not to travel in military vehicles, visit war zones, or to stay in garrisons, because they will then be considered hostile persons. The Honduran ham operators did not mention the Sandinist militarymen's response to the rebels.

ALFONSO ROBELO VIEWS CONTADORA, UNITY, U.S. AID

PA211451 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2057 GMT 20 May 86

[By Ana Zunzarren]

[Text] Miami, 20 May (EFE) -- Anti-Sandinist leader Alfonso Robelo told EFE today that a U.S. invasion of Nicaragua "is unnecessary and would be a foolish action." Robelo admitted that in case of a big "provocation" from the Sandinists, "such as the death of Archbishop Miguel Obando y Bravo, the Americans would enter Managua cheered by everyone."

"There must be no U.S. invasion, because I have no intention of entering my country after an invasion because this is unnecessary. It has not been requested and it would be a foolish action," it was stated by Robelo, who, along with Adolfo Calero and Arturo Cruz, comprise the directorate of the contra movement created by the CIA and financed by the United States in the struggle to militarily oust the Sandinist government in Nicaragua.

The rebel leader's statements coincide with a report from the Pentagon which was revealed today by the U.S. newspaper THE NEW YORK TIMES, which asserts that the Contadora document for peace -- in its current form -- could be easily violated by the Sandinists; consequently, the United States would be forced to directly intervene in Nicaragua.

The invasion, for which the necessary plans already exist, would be initially carried out by 100,000 U.S. soldiers with naval and air support; the operation would cost $9.1 billion during the first year of hostilities. Asked if he would oppose the invasion, Robelo said he would first "see what all my people's position would be in this mess" and "see under what conditions the invasion took place." He said: For example, "if the Sandinists kill Msgr Obando (Managua Archbishop Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo) and there is a U.S. invasion, the Americans would enter Managua cheered by everyone."

He said that the Nicaraguan Opposition Unity (UNO), the contras' political front, which was created 11 months ago at the advice of the United States, and is financed by funds which are approved by the U.S. Congress and the CIA, wants Nicaragua "to sign something next 6 June in Contadora (Panama)." He said that this is their hope because they are sure that if "Central America signs the document it means that those countries and the United States are convinced that the agreement will work in a clear and verifiable way, and all the points in the document will be simultaneously fulfilled."

"If Nicaragua signs, the Sandinists will have to abandon their totalitarian project and declare a cease-fire, for which they will have to hold a dialogue with us, who can pledge a cease-fire and fulfill it," he said. The rebel leader stated: In any case, "we would have to give Contadora an opportunity," and until a cease-fire agreement is signed, the United States would give us only humanitarian and defensive aid. Afterward, only humanitarian aid." [quotation marks as received]

According to Robelo, Nicaragua's position on 6 June "will be decided by Moscow, and Nicaragua will not sign if that country wants to continue harassing the United States. However, if Moscow wants to achieve detente in the international situation, it will force Nicaragua to sign, because it does not consider the Sandinists totally allied and part of its bloc."

"The worst thing that the Sandinists could do is sign and not fulfill their pledge," Robelo stated. He is a chemical engineer and millionaire businessman who was part of the first Sandinist government junta following Anastasio Somoza's fall. He resigned in the spring of 1980 in rejection of the FSLN's monopoly on power. Robelo, who has known the Sandinist leaders since their childhood days and later shared the exercise of power with them, said that "if the Sandinists had to decide by themselves, Daniel Ortega (president) would sign the document, while Borge (interior minister) would oppose this."

He announced that the UNO directorate has sent letters to the Central American presidents -- with the exception of the Nicaraguan president -- who will meet 24-25 May in Esquipulas (Guatemala) to discuss the Central American crisis.

The contra triumvirate is holding meetings behind closed doors in Miami to settle their internal rifts and create a "politically democratic and militarily efficient" organization that is capable of countering the Sandinists and presenting a new political image, capable of convincing the reticent U.S. Congress to approve the $100 million requested by Ronald Reagan for the contras.

CONTRAS SUFFER 302 CASUALTIES FROM 6-20 MAY

PA211710 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1400 GMT 21 May 86

[Text] In the past 15 days the EPS inflicted 302 casualties, including 267 deaths, on the counterrevolutionary forces. The EPS dealt heavy military blows on the mercenary forces in battles that took place between 6 and 20 May, mainly in Matagalpa, Jinotega, nd Zelaya departments. The battles resulted in a toll of 302 mercenary casualties, including 267 deaths, and the recovery of military supplies by the EPS troops.

In Matagalpa Department, the most important battles were waged in the area of San Antonio, north of Rio Blanco, on 12 May. Twenty-two counterrevolutionaries were killed. In the area of Canta Gallo hill, north of Rio Blanco, our troops killed 20 and wounded 25 counterrevolutionaries on 15 May. In the area of El Jocote hill, southeast of Waslala, the EPS killed eight counterrevolutionaries. In the area of El Garrobo, south of Puerto Viejo, there was fighting on 18 May. Two mercenaries, including the counterrevolutionary chief known as Medalla, were killed.

In Jinotega Department, the main actions were in Antioquia, northeast of San Rafael Del Norte, where 17 mercenaries were killed on 6 May. In (Yacalpanani), northwest of (San Donaldo), the counterrevolutionaries suffered 30 casualties on 8 May. In Aguas Calientes, northeast of Asturias, our troops inflicted 14 dead on the enemy. In [name indistinct], west of San Jose de Bocay, the EPS inflicted 22 casualties on the counterrevolutionaries in fighting on 18 May.

In Zelaya Department, the sectors where the most military activity occurred were those northeast and southeast of La Pinuela, north and southeast of Nueva Guinea, southeast of San Pedro del Norte, and south of Muelle de los Bueyes. The most important battles were on 9 May in the El Guasimo Creek area, southeast of Nueva Guinea, where 10 counterrevolutionaries were killed and on 13 May, in the area of Oilwas Hill, southeast of San Pedro del Norte, where four counterrevolutionaries were killed.

On 17 May a pickup truck of the Housing and Human Settlements Ministry traveling in a convoy of private vehicles on the Wiwili-Jinotega road hit a counterrevolutionary mine and was then attacked by a mercenary group. Five people were killed in this criminal action. Three of them were Roger Jenkins, an engineer, Cesar Arauz Blandon, and Rosario Leyton. The Defense Ministry communique concluded by stating that in another criminal action against the civilian population, counterrevolutionaries intercepted two passenger buses on the Pueblo Nuevo-San Antonio road in Zelaya Department on 18 May. They stole the passengers' belongings and later in the same location burned a truck of the Construction Ministry.

CASTRO SPEECH AT COOPERATIVES MEETING

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[Speech by President Fidel Castro at the closing ceremony of the second meeting of agricultural production cooperatives at Havana's Karl Marx Theater on 18 May 1986 -- recorded]

[Text] Well, Comrades, I am not going to stand behind that podium because it would be too formal, and we could say we have had -- another microphone? -- informal discussions here, and this is what I am going to do, to prolong the conversation we have had a little. There is not much I can say at the end of this meeting because I have been talking and giving my opinion throughout the meeting, and I am not going to repeat many of the concepts and ideas that have already been expresed here. I should say -- and I say it on behalf of the comrades who have sat at the presiding table, who have been observing or participating in this meeting -- we are going to be left with a very good impression of this meeting. This is a unanimous opinion, that the meeting has been very good, very substantial, and productive.

It has not only facilitated problem solving, but it has also been useful for us to enrich our knowledge, our information in matters related to the peasants' movement which today can be called the cooperative movement. The new means of production, the higher means of production within the peasants movement have become basic.

I believe this meeting can be called a historic one. I believe the decision we adopted yesterday of putting an end to an institution which has sown very negative, very harmful results, such as the so-called peasants' free market turned into a big obstacle to the development of the cooperative movement. It caused -- as it was pointed out here -- the creation of a number of groups and middlemen who have enriched themselves, who have profited.

Above all, it turned into an obstacle for the cooperative movement itself. I have talked with Pepe [Jose G. Ramirez] several times and told him we had to prevent the cooperatives from going to the peasants' free market for moral principles and dignity reasons to avoid getting into that commercialism, speculations.

The revolution attempted to create the ideal conditions for cooperatives, and in a number of measures were adopted that actually benefited the cooperatives in every way, including in tax matters. Many things have been done to help the cooperative movement. Since enterprises had been established that could acquire that surplus or those products that supposedly would go to the peasants' free market and could buy them from the cooperatives at good prices, it was not necessary for the cooperatives to go to the peasants' free market, and it was not necessary for cooperatives to discredit themselves.

I have to tell you that the people forced to pay a high price for certain goods, have had a very bad opinion of the peasants' free market. They did not like the prices, that system of individual enrichment. When they went there, the people felt they were being robbed. It was painful for me to see that the cooperative movement had become a victim of the people's rejection, repulsion, ill-will, because of all the terms and conditions assigned to cooperatives.

I said to myself: How are we going to ask the cooperatives members who are honestly working, making an effort, obtaining their bread with the fruit of their labor, how are we going to ask them not to take their produce to the peasants' free market? But if we do not, this free market will continue to exist for all those lumpen, antisocial individuals may continue profiting from it; and even those farmers, the individual

peasants, blinded by ambition, profits, and money, may continue to profit from the market to obtain all the money they want in that market. I realized it was not possible for that market to continue to exist.

It was a great stimulus for us to see how the cooperative members unanimously agreed to eliminate the peasants' free market -- something we already knew because they had expressed it at grassroot level meetings and also at the party's provincial assembly meetings. The force, decisiveness, clarity, and energy you have put into expressing the need to eliminate this type of market is clear and tangible evidence evidence of the development of the consciousness of cooperative peasants, ad not only of the economic and material advantages of the cooperatives, but the political advantages as well. We can already see that cooperative members have a different mentality. They have an awareness, a mentality already different from the individual producer. They have analyzed all the negative consequences of that institutiion with objectivity and depth and have unanimously decided to eliminate it.

I was convinced that the peasants' free market had to disappear soon. I thought it would have a few more months of life. However, the ideas expressed by you, your proposals, the unanimous cooperative movement's opinion was what determined the elimination of that market. All measures are being taken to eliminate the peasant's free market on Monday or at least next week. [applause]

We have experienced this, and I believe it has also made us wiser. I believe this will have a great political, moral, and even economic impact in the cooperative movement. Of course, those individuals who were the champions of free trade also encouraged a number of free trade activities within the heart of the revolution. They slowed down the cooperative movement. They not only hindered the cooperative movement but were a demoralizing, negative element in every sense. They are not going to retract so easily. They are goint to attempt to continue peddling, negotiating, selling on the black market. But it will not be so easy for them, it will no longer be legal. In addition, if together with this measure we try to speed up the collection/distribution activity -- at the moment the only institution available [for this purpose] is the High Quality Fruits Enterprises -- I believe that the peasants, who in many instances were delivering their produce to these middlemen, could either deliver them to the collection/distribution centers or to the High Quality Fruits [Enterprise]. At the moment, High Quality Fruits Enterprise will have to supply the parallel markets and fill the small vacuum. I say small vacuum because the peasants' free markets were selling around 70 million pesos. The parallel market between agricultural and industrial goods were selling, I do not know the current figure, someone should have it around here, but they are selling, I believe they are selling over 500 million.

[Castro talks to someone sitting next to him, whose responses are unintelligible] What is it? Unfortunately, neither Esquivel nor Vila are here, neither of them are here. In Havana alone, nationally, how much is it? The parallel market is selling around 800 million pesos.

I am being told over 900 million. So it has grown. Of course, it includes agricultural and industrial goods. But as I was telling you yesterday, in 1985 almost 50 billion tons of rice alone were sold, 50,000 tons [Castro corrects himself] which means that about or more than 100 million pesos were sold in rice only. Many other agricultural goods, domestic or imported are sold.

Last year's drought affected the production of tubers and plantains, and that encouraged many citizens to buy rice in the parallel market. That also forced us to import some rice because of the right situation created with the rice supply.

Later came the hurricane, and we were very concerned during December, January, and February. But fortunately, the Soviet rice donation arrived. Already around the days of the hurricane, and only as a consequence of the drought, many provinces were not selling rice in the parallel market. When the hurricane passed and when we secured 30,000 tons of Soviet rice, the domestic trade organs were instructed to sell rice in the entire country. The parallel market rice withstood the blow caused by the hurricane when it affected tubers and vegetables. Rice sales have decreased during these last few months because of the availability of potatoes and other produce. We are planning to sell better quality rice. It is already on sale. It is sold at 1.50 [currency not specified] but in small quantities. It is parboiled wild rice. This rice has its advantages. It is much more nutritious because it has [indistinct comments by unidentified man].

[Castro] It sold 925 million?

[Unidentified man] Between the two last years.

[Castro] Between two what?

[Unidentified man] Industrial and livestock-agricultural products.

[Castro] Well, 925 million?

[Unidentified man] 925.3

[Castro] Until 30 April it has sold -- January, February, March, April -- well, 305 million had been sold.

Up to April, this market supplied 11,592 tons of rice, sugar, coffee, (?instant) coffee, corn meal, and various kinds of grains. Of course, some of them are imported. But what I wanted to say is that these markets can fill the vacuum the peasants' free market leaves.

I was telling you about a new product that retains [Castro changes thought] has many better nutritious qualities than the polished rice. Actually, what rice mills do is to take the husk out and polish the rice. They take the best thing off rice. Wheat mills do the same thing. For example, 30 percent of it is taken off, that is bran. The bran that has been talked about so much contains the wheat grain's best nutrients and contains the fiber, mineral salts, proteins, and vitamins wheat flour does not contain. The best is taken out of it. That is a result of civilization. Especially, they take the fiber out of it. Nowadays, doctors are recommending fiber consumption to fill the needs of the body. Many intestinal illnesses -- including cancer -- are caused by the lack of fiber consumption. That is an illness of the civilized man. Fiber is taken out of wheat and what is practically left in the flour is starch. Wheat flour has proteins, bread has proteins, but the entire grain has more. The country produces what we call whole wheat bread, which is consumed by many people following doctors recommendations. We also have parboiled wheat flour, but consumers are not used to eating it. The Arabs are used to eating that parboiled flour. We have small amounts of it. In the same plant where the parboiled wholewheat is produced, some small amounts of parboiled wild rice are produced. It is very good. The entire grain remains intact. Four different plants will open in different parts of the country to introduce that product in the parallel market. The parboiled wild rice is very good, more nutritious, healthier. The small amounts that are produced are being sold at 1.50 [currency not speficied].

But, which is the advantage these plants have? Presently, when the dried out grain comes out of the mill, it has something like 50, perhaps 70, or 60 percent left in it. However, this parboiled grain yields about 70 percent. There is no dust, it does not break up. It is very good. There is some construction going on for the sale of that grain at the parallel market.

This means an increase in nutrition per ton of rice. I believe these markets will continue to develop as a necessity. We have in mind those who make money in accordance to their work. We have in mind people who work and make good money, such as physicians, specialists, professors, and many workers. They work and make a good salary. They can buy more than what is alloted to them in the ration book. Thus, they have a positive type advantage in that type of market. Above all, there are many products that you sell that cannot be produced for 10 million people. Before, you could not do it, there was not enough for 10 million. Today perhaps there is enough for 100,000, half a million, 1 million, or 2 million. That cannot be included in the ration book.

Some of these products cannot be sold through the ration book. Many people ask why are they not sold through the ration book. I can remember the case of yogurt. When we were producing 30,000 yogurt rations, some people were asking why did we not include it in the ration book. To this we said: Who is going to distribute the yogurt through the ration book? We were producing only 30,000 units. I cannot even imagine how long it would take to go around for everybody.

The problem was finally resolved; now we produce some 300,000. But even with that production.... [Castro changes thought] that production of 300,000 is just for the city of Havana. But even with that production, there are some who say: Listen, why are they not included in the ration book? When that matter was taken up, it was resolved to do it with the price. [not further explained] The butter is also sold outside the ration book. It has a special price. The same is the case with the ice cream and other things. They are not rationed. It is very difficult to ration them.

So, these markets [parallel markets] are useful to the food industry, because it is able to produce many goods in reduced quantities, not enough to go around for everybody. Then, they are distributed with a price. I believe that this parallel market, followed very closely and working with it, can perfectly fill that small vacuum being created today with the elimination of the peasants' free market, which was a source of enrichment, out of those 70 million [pesos], they were paying some taxes, about 12 or 13 [million pesos], and they, the producer and middlemen, were making a net profit of 40 or 50 million. Those who were buying the product were creating this problem; they were corrupting. Of course, this is not the only source of enrichment in just one area. But, enrichment was easy in the country.

Aside from the economic, political, and moral damage, they were delaying the development of the peasant movement, the development of cooperatives, creating ill will, because they were creating ill will. As I said yesterday, if one man with a hectare of garlic could earn up to 50,000 pesos in 1 year, it would be very difficult that he would be willing to join the cooperative movement.

This has also been the source for buying houses in cities, in Havana, everywhere. Even the housing law will have to be reviewed because it has become a new mechanism of enrichment. They sell a house and begin buying building material here, a piece of land over there and another one somewhere else, and build housing and sell them. It becomes an unbelievable business inside the revolution with the purchase and sale of housing, as well as the business of building houses.

I am convinced that this is a great step forward, it could be that some of the weeds... [Castro changes thought] As I stated yesterday, some of these products...products that are not from regular harvests have to go to these parallel markets from cooperatives or state farms. I believe that if we make an effort we will do it. There are many ways to solve the problem.

I can remember that some years ago we made an effort to improve the capital's workers restaurants. To do this, we gave the state farms some trucks to supply 500 of the capital's workers restaurants directly, without middlemen. Produce such as vegetables, root vegetables, were supplied. If they could not do it or did not have the product, they could acquire it from other state enterprises and supply it. The price paid for this was the same price the gathering centers were getting when selling to the retailers. In this manner, since several years ago, some 500 of the capital's workers restaurants are being supplied with vegetables and root vegetables, which they could not get before. This was an easy mechanism that resolved a problem.

Thus, I am sure that if the enterprise handling special fruits wants to do it, and does a good job, it can guarantee the supply of the parallel market with those things the peasants' free market had. I am absolutely convinced that it can be solved. This is going to be a great step forward when persisting irregularities are overcome. In just a few weeks we will have the gathering centers transferred to the agriculture [department].

We are not criticizing the people's governments. They made a great effort to make the gathering centers a workable system. But, the problem did not lie in the gathering centers, the concept was erroneous. It was really wrong. Gathering centers should have always been a national organization. We will possibly make a national union of gathering centers under one directorate. Those in charge of the gathering centers should also supervise the handling of special fruits. They should be under the same supervision. As I said yesterday, we will provide new resources so that the two organizations, under one direction, may resolve the problem as it was explained here. Some of the problems were clearly explained, some of these products need an institution, an entity over them so that, let us say, so that the sweet potato will not be mixed up; let us say 100 quintals of sweet potatoes mixed up with a case of soursops.

Nevertheless, we have to harvest the soursops and take them somewhere. If we have to develop tourism, it has to be taken to a hotel. We have to develop tourism, it is an important source of foreign currency. It is not a case that we like it; we do not like tourism. It is an economic necessity. The country has to exploit those natural resources, such as the ocean, the sun, the climate. Thus, those products can be used for some restaurants at a higher price, for some hotels, for some of those institutions, we have to harvest it. It could be a matter of protocol; let us say a reception, a visiting foreigner and we have to have fruits, special fruits.

So I believe it will disappear, after having taught us a lot and hurt us more than a little, and who knows how many millionaires? The free peasants' market will disappear, and we will rectify what was without question a mistaken decision. Wise men acknowledge their errors, and the sooner we rectify them the better. [applause]

Our struggle with these neocapitalistic elements that have appeared is not limited to this meeting with the cooperatives and will not be limited to the suppression of the free peasants' market. No. We are going to struggle on all fronts, everywhere, against all these tendencies and all these manifestations. I believe that this decision, taken at this meeting, will make this meeting into an historic meeting. But this meeting will not be historical only because of this decision but because for the first time, in a large theater such as the Karl Marx Theater, all the presidents of cooperatives of the entire country are meeting, as well as the secretaries of the party cells of the youtn movement and representatives of the People's Government, of the National Association of Small Farmers, and of the party at the municipal and provincial levels. As you have seen, virtually the entire party Politburo is here, and the entire Council of Ministers except those who are outside the country, so you can have some idea of the interest and attention given to this meeting.

It is an historical event when this theater is filled with the presidents of all the country's cooperatives. This is much easier, and I have always said it would be a marvelous day if, when we wanted to talk with the peasant sector, we did not have to meet with 200,000 peasants because it is impossible to meet with 200,000 peasants. It is perfectly possible to meet with 1,000, 1,500, or 2,000 cooperatives to discuss any problem.

In the future we may have to meet to study situations like that of the mountains, but it is a lot easier for the socialist state to discuss, talk, exchange opinions, and search for formulas while meeting with 1,500 representatives of the peasant sector or with 2,000 representatives who direct and control the entire production of the peasants or who will do so one day. It is our aspiration that one day the lands of the peasants will be a part of the cooperatives. For that reason I say this moment is historical. [applause]

The awareness that the entire government acquires regarding the problems of farmers and the cooperative movement will also be historical. Just yesterday we made an important decision here, a very important decision that is going to benefit not only the members of the cooperatives but also the farm laborers.

Yesterday we analyzed how much cement and reinforcing rods you receive from the two ministries, and we decided to double the amount so you can build housing and carry out other activities. This gives you the possibility of building about 4,000 more dwellings per year if we put it all into housing. This means the possibility of building about 20,000 more dwellings in 5 years.

Yesterday we clearly recognized that the amounts allotted to the rural areas are very small. This will surely mean -- we will do everything we can -- that next year, in addition to maintaining the levels we achieve this year with the peasants, next year we will double or triple the amounts of materials that are being given to the cooperative farms for the farm laborers. [applause] That is, our brothers, the farm laborers, are going to receive this benefit as a result of this meeting we have held here. We are not going to forget them.

I think that in the same way as the members of the cooperatives with their microbrigades and construction workers who work with the support of the community, the state farms, with their groups of construction workers at the sugar mills and the enterprises administered by the ministry of agriculture, can organize their groups and, with community support, begin building. I believe a plan is being drawn up for the coming year, calculating how much was assigned in 1986. Let us see if we can double and, if possible, triple the amounts of cement and reinforcing rods we provide for building purposes.

Comrade Rizo told us how they are making flat concrete roofs. They use the cement they receive, and they also receive cement, stone, and sand in the form of prefabricated elements that are delivered to them. I believe that the decision we took yesterday is going to have enormous repercussions in our rural areas where construction materials are concerned. What we have to do now is to try to distribute them well so every area receives them and no cooperative can say it has never received anything or that only 60 bags of cement have been received. I think the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of the Sugar Industry must make their resources available everywhere. They must not only go to the cooperatives that already have the greatest resources. Let the banks grant credits to the cooperatives that do not receive the construction materials so they can buy them without bartering or participating in dirty dealings to get the materials. I also hope there will be no more cases of cooperatives receiving these materials and then reselling them at higher prices, making money, because this is not fair or honest.

In such a case, it is preferable to return the materials, saying: here, take these materials and redistribute them. And if they are redistributed to our cooperatives it must be done without extra earnings, as everything should be redistributed with no one making money from the redistribution, because, in the same way that an auto is not sold for 4,000 pesos to a good canecutter so that he can resell it for 20,000, cooperatives are not given construction materials at a specific price so they can sell them at a much higher price to individual peasants or to anyone else who may need them. This is going to be an important step.

I have given this example because, throughout the meeting, we have paid great attention to the matters discussed here and have thought about how we should go about finding the most rational and appropriate solutions. Since the problem was brought up regarding supplies for the dining rooms, we have been seeking the best formula. We don't want to settle on a formula that will create complications in the future. I am sure we will find some way to satisfy that logcal need the dining rooms have to serve certain products they do not produce. How are we going to do this?

This is what we must seek to determine as quickly as possible; but we must find something that works without creating other problems, the problems of cooperatives in mountainous areas. We have listened to all the problems here with the spirit of striving to find solutions. We have not only been informed; we have felt the need and the desire to make an effort to resolve many of the problems presented here in one way or another. As Pepe said, everything has been recorded. We have taken note of everything. I believe we will achieve something more: If the Ministry of the Sugar Industry [Minaz] has paid more attention than the Ministry of Agriculture [Minag] to the cooperatives, I believe we can get the Minaz to cooperate even more [applause] and that the Minag will give you all the cooperation it did not give you for some time, and then some. [applause]

I liked the way Comrade Adolfo spoke here today, with great clarity and frankness but without demagoguery of any kind. If we see an official who wants only to please the members of the cooperatives by saying only agreeable things, I do not believe that official is behaving honestly. I like the clarity and frankness with which Adolfo spoke, with which Castize spoke, and with which they described the problems. Because the revolution needs responsible officials who do not make promises just to make them but who do the maximum they can. I also liked what Comrade Risquet said when he explained the positions taken in the Congress, reminding us and recommending that these problems be studied. The revolution needs responsible men, not demagogues. Demagogues do a lot of harm and cost too much. [applause]

If an unfair situation exists, that situation must be resolved. Whatever is unjust should disappear. If there is something well done which is not understood, then it must be explained, and one must not get tired of explaining so the peasants can understand the reason behind one thing and another, the reason behind each measure. The important thing is not to give orders but to persuade, which is much more important. It is important that everything be done by persuasion: these measures presented by the Politburo are good, and why they are good.

Yesterday I said that document does not yet resolve all our problems. There are things that must still be defined, that must be defined as quickly as possible so all the cooperatives can know what they can and cannot do, what they must and must not do. What we need is to overcome all these difficulties. I do not need to say anymore about the difficulties that have come up. Because I do not have the slightest doubt of the honesty with which all the cooperative presidents have spoken here. I have no doubt of the honor, the dignity, the decorum with which all of you have spoken here. [applause] The way in which you have acknowledged errors, the willingness and firm determination need no commentary.

In the future, other types of errors will appear but we must be attentive to the errors that do come up to see that they are recognized and corrected.

Here we have been discussing some difficult problems: What to do with the peasant who retires? What rights should he have? If we allow ourselves to be moved by our inner kindness and by our feelings of solidarity with others, we would say: I know he worked. If he can't work at 65, let him have salt, partial pay, free public utilities, and his pension. But we realize that although we want to do this, it is not the right thing to do. It would distort the cooperatives, endowing them with a nature they do not have and making them increase in number. To the degree that we did all that, we would one day have to organize cooperatives in the city, including grandparents, sons, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

If someone retires early, someone else must be brought in to do his work. Earlier than expected, it would be necessary to build another dwelling. All of this is very expensive and has disadvantages of every kind. For this reason we have been trying to determine which formula is better because there evidently is no uniform criteria on this matter.

One comrade wondered if this would make them retire and then leave. I don't think we should retain the members of the cooperatives in this fashion. I think a stable cooperative member who likes his cooperative would be hurt by having to leave it when he retires, because it is the place where his friends and acquaintances are.

I was saying that the sons, grandchildren and great grandchildren would stay on. I wish they would! If we drew up a study of the sons, grandchildren, and great grandchildren who have joined the ranks of the professionals, university students, officers of the FAR, physicians, professors, and right here, when Baguano was mentioned, the comrade who spoke of Baguano, of the cooperative in the Baguano area, mentioned the peasant who ended up along with 104 caballerias of land and his sons are professors, and he is alone there. So the problem we have is how to keep the development of the revolution and the possibilities that youth has from being translated into the abandonment of our countryside. If there is anything our country cannot abandon it is agriculture, which is vital to the development of the country, to our standard of living, to exports.

It is true that we hope that our exports will depend less and less on agriculture and more on industry. But we cannot do without agriculture. I believe it is a challenge to the party and to the revolution to determine what measures we can take to keep people on the farms so we can have news like the news brought by the comrade for the area of Perico, which has so many members who are relatively young, with few retired persons. Of course, the number of retired persons will increase, and if we do things right... I believe that if a man who is 67 or 68 years old can still work, he should continue to do so. We should not do anything to encourage him to retire, and when he can no longer work, he should stay on the cooperative and be treated with all consideration, affection, and respect, and receive all the help a man deserves who has worked all his life. We do not want him to leave the cooperative. He should stay there, live there even though this means more expenses for that town, because he has to live somewhere and it is better for him to live on the cooperative and not to go back to his little town. He will surely be happier on the cooperative, living in that community, than living in the town or living alone, isolated.

What happens to the peasant whose children leave him? They leave to study and he is left alone and isolated. His life is really sad. It seems to me to be much happier and much more humane for him to live in the community with his friends, his comrades, and his family. Because the cooperative, among other things, should be a family, a great family.

I believe we should find appropriate solutions -- correct solutions -- to problems, and not superficial or easy solutions.

Here we have been able to see the differences between some types of cooperatives and others. For this reason, the presentation of the comrades from Matanzas was very correct in recommending that the differences be studied.

We are looking for ways to encourage people to remain in the mountainous areas, to improve living conditions in those areas, and to make them more equal although it will be impossible to make the living conditions of all cooperatives absolutely equal. A measure that has been taken is that of increasing the price of the products of the cooperatives that have difficulties. It is necessary to pay special attention to them, we have done a few things. I mentioned a few of them yesterday. I mentioned the electric powerhouses in mountainous areas, and I mentioned the family doctor. But I know that materials have to reach them to improve their standard of living. We have to determine everything that can be done in the mountainous areas to hold the line there.

What can be done to assist those kinds of crops that earn less money and require greater expenditures, and much more work? There are crops that cannot be machine harvested. And whereas preparation of the land for rice growing and the harvesting of the rice can be done by machine, the same is not true of tobacco. Because of its characteristics, the machine harvesting of that kind of crop is much harder. For this reason, we find that productivity per man increases greatly in cane cooperatives and vegetable cooperatives but does not increase so much in the tobacco cooperatives or in the coffee cooperatives in mountainous areas. We should keep all these circumstances in mind.

I do not believe all the problems have been presented here, but in the assemblies, in the work done by the party, in the work done by a group of comrades that we sent to the cooperatives, in the grass-roots assemblies, and in the assemblies of the provincial committees of the party, we have collected a lot of information.

I recall that one of the things we spoke a lot about was the need to train members of cooperatives in certain technical fields or send technicians to the cooperatives because the numbers of trained personnel and technical personnel for agricultural work is low. That problem was not mentioned here but it is one of the problems that we must keep in mind. Everything said here has been noted down along with things that were not said here. And what we can do when this meeting is over is to promise tht we will take maximum interest in resolving all the problems that we can in relation to the cooperatives and the cooperative movement, especially now that we are sure it is going to gain a lot of strength.

I believe it became evident here that the revolution has taken an overly generous position toward certain elements, and that the revolution has been too tolerant of certain vices and deformations in the countryside.

I have already spoken of the people whose cane we used to cut and then take a check to their houses. And here it was clearly established that the cooperative members want those persons to disappear who use the land in an improper fashion and enter into sharecropping arrangements and rent land to earn money. [prolonged applause]

It was also made clear that the cooperatives believe that people should not be allowed simply to abandon their land. Without taking any kind of legal action, but with the coordination of the Minaz, the Interior Ministry [Minint], the Minag, and the National Association of Small Farmers [ANAP], all the practices of absentee landlords should be brought to an end in the countryside due to their improper use of the land. [applause] Something must be done about some of those kulaks [preceding word in English] still left out there, to use an historical word. A few are still left.

Regarding this same case, I can just imagine the man who did the shady dealing with the Fiat. That was a very illustrative story at this meeting. This man has two trucks. I am told he is not a tobacco grower, for the greater honor of the tobacco growers! Was he a rice grower? He has a farm, four agricultural laborers, two trucks, and I imagine he cannot drive the two of them. If he charges the 300 Rizo mentioned here, then I suppose he must earn 500 pesos at least, or 400, 500, 600 pesos, how much does he earn yearly? One hundred fifty thousand pesos! Incredible! Plus what he must earn in all his dirty deals. Because to pay 27,000 pesos while splitting his sides laughing....[Castro leaves thought unfinished]

Yesterday, I saw one of you who spoke very irritably saying he was happy that all these problems had been brought up. An honest worker, a hard working peasant must be indignant over these things because they are laughing in his face as if they were saying idiot, you belong to a cooperative and I am a millionaire, with two trucks, I have this, I have workers, I am a prince, a king, an emperor. [applause]

We have established strict respect for free will and we will observe it. But it is one thing to respect the principle of willfulness and quite another to tolerate arbitrariness, abuses, and undue enrichment.

There are honest people in this country. There are people who get married and go to a hotel on their honeymoon. During the slack tourist season, we even open the hotels to the workers, requiring that they be workers to make use of some of these hotels during slack season. It hurts one to think that the lumpen, the newly rich are those who make use of those services and installations the revolution has created. You can't charge really low prices because if you do so, the installations get filled, the hotels are ruined. They must have a proper price. Then it hurts that these individuals who have more easy money are the ones who enjoy it all.

It is true, as I told you, that they cannot buy even a motorcycle. And if you see one, I repeat, tell someone and ask the municipal authorities to investigate where he bought it, and when they determine there was an illegal action, let them confiscate it, because it is a violation, or let him be taken to court. [applause] It is improper. They are committing an economic crisis.

He can't buy these things because we have set up a system. And they can't be sold for what they are worth, those 5,000 or 6,000 automobiles which we sell to honest outstanding working people, including cooperative members. And, Pepe, we should keep them in mind when the cars are sold. [applause] We should remember the cooperative members. It is true that generally in the countryside there is another type of vehicle but some cars have been sold to cooperative members. I will not say that we are going to send cars here along the mountains because I don't know how it could be done. They would have to be transported by muleback. It would have to travel by mule. But in many areas, a number of motorcycles... [changes construction] Because I do not know whether they are sold to cooperative members. What do you sell to the laborers in the factory? You don't sell to the cooperative members. Well, we are going to recommend that the cooperative members be included in the distribution plans. [applause]

We are going to provide for their sale to workers if any remain because this is fair. We want the workers to be the ones who have that. Not the speculators, not the businessmen, and with the same principles under which some automobiles have been sold. We are going to do it more and more cooperative members will have them. Remember that 65 percent or 61 percent of the land in mountains areas which is 65,000 caballerias, is in hands of cooperatives. There are still a few tens of thousands of individual peasants.

The work with individual peasants is much more difficult, it is terrible, almost a problem without solution because it is necessary to talk with tens of thousands of them. The day that the entire country belongs to cooperatives, that is, when the entire peasant sector belongs to cooperatives, it will be much easier to resolve the problem. The proof that there is a solution was given here by Elias when Antonio spoke, when Orlando spoke, when Rizo spoke, saying we have no problems. They take good care of us. Of course, we must try to get all cooperatives to a point where they can say we have no problems, they take good care of us. We must also remember the cooperatives located in the mountains or in drier sites, in places that are more difficult. We must remember them.

We cannot concentrate, it would be correct for us to concentrate exclusively on the cooperative that has the most resources. I believe we must take care of it and give it resources, but we must not forget. It does not matter whether there are 4,000 caballerias and I don't know how many thousands of members, although its production totals 3 million. We must take care of it because there are persons who are sacrificing themselves to preserve the forests, to take care of the mountain, coffee, cacao, whatever. There they are and we must take care of them. We cannot be guided in this by a mercantile criteria: I mean with resources for only the cooperatives that are the most successful, because this would be practically a capitalistic policy, and we have to have a solidarity policy, a socialist policy, and keep in mind all those peasants who we want to remain in the mountainous areas. We must remember them keep them in our minds, and take the resources to them.

I believe this more rigorous policy against all the deformations is going to surround that bourgeois enemy that has a mercantile mentality and wants to grow rich with the sweat of the revolutionary people. We are surrounding it little by little. I am going to see if the day when all the land belongs to the cooperatives and there men heading each cooperative like those we have mentioned here, a profiteer like that one can appear. [applause] Nowadays they can still take refuge in tens of thousands of loose lots, which are much harder to control. It is even harder to guess what they are doing. In the meantime, it is necessary to do what you said, Pepe, political work, ideological work, organizational work to start taking pledges, including supplies delivered, supplies stored.

We must solve the problem of the products that are to have differential prices. More or less those that are tagged for the peasants' free market and some of the highest quality products can be sent to units of quality fruit for sale in the parallel market. We still do not have all the ideas drawn up but I think we will find practical solutions to fulfill the objective of supplying the population. Perhaps we cannot supply all the malanga, the part not sold to the day nurseries, to the hosptitals. When there is great abundance of bananas, there is no reason for bananas to be sold on the parallel market. There may be an excess of ripe bananas to sell there. Supposedly it does not have an abundance of determined products. Some, like garlic, are sold at a specific price. If it is in short supply at a certain time of year, you charge a little more, if it is abundant, you charge a little less.

I am hoping that this year, at the price of approximately 2 pesos, which is one-third of what was charged last year, there will be enough for all. If we do not achieve that this year, we will ensure that garlic will be freely available at a price of approximatey 2 pesos to everyone in all places. In other words there will be 250 or 300 caballerias of garlic, which will give us the supply of that product at one-third the previous selling price. An abudance of products will result in a liberalization of products. As a result it will be difficult to sell turkey inexpensively and freely. Geese, rabbits, and those kinds of products would be sold. Beef has never been sold on the parallel market. That measure was taken because meat is scarce, but poultry meat and other meat of other animals is being sold.

I believe that the development of this movement, which is already a reality -- I must say this sincerely although we came to make critical, and self-critical examination, a responsible, sincere, frank, and courageous analysis of the problem. There has been a great cooperative movement. After this meeting, all of us -- all party leaders within the government -- will leave with the certainty that we not only have a strong, but also an incredible cooperative movement. [applause]

We will leave knowing the mistakes made are being mended and will be mended. We leave knowing that we should avoid new kinds of mistakes that might develop, having the awareness of lending to this all the attention this movement deserves because of its economic political, ideological, and revolutionary importance. We are happy about the existence of a great number of nuclei in the party and a large number of militants in the party, and the participation of youths in the heart of the cooperative movement.

However, I believe that this contact, this meeting between the cooperatives and the party will yield this contact, this meeting between the cooperatives and the party will yield very healthy results. We see in the cooperative a great ally in the struggle against what has been done wrong; in the struggle against the inclination to seek easy money; in the struggle to fight whatever is wrong in the right way. This is a struggle that we must carry on everywhere with the help of peasants and laborers. Laborers must also help us because there could be distortions and practices that could harm our labor class and be costly to our country.

We are trying to correct some of these things. For example, at the end of the year, every state, enterprise must automatically match the budget with outstanding bills, bills owed to the bank. A vice was established in this manner, and all that allows a slackening, payment of excessive wages, and payment of anything at the time of preparation of the budget. What one of the peasants said here is true, that they do not have the budget to answer for them. But the workers are not to blame for that. The administration is to blame, the administrators.

They have fallen into demagogic practices, because it is always easier to approve things and play the role of good guys than it is to adopt a vigorous, serious, responsible, revolutionary, and communist attitude. One must say it should be done this way and not like that.

Firmness and determination have been lacking. I believe that state enterprises share a lot of the blame in some of the problems we are discussing here. They also share responsibility for a certain degree of corruption within our working class by paying wages not commensurate with the work done. There are centers -- and this has been discussed in assemblies held by the party -- in which there are workers being paid for five or six shifts. Those workers make twice and even thrice as much as one worker or a group of workers. That is really absurd and demonstrates the weakness, the lack of supervision, and we are fighting against and analyzing all that.

We are waging a battle and we must win. Some experiences and formulas have brough the idea that we should return to capitalism, capitalist methods, or capitalist style. Today, 19 May, I heard said that some behaved like capitalist scum because they did not even have capitalist efficiency, but showed the vices of anarchy of the capitalists. We must closely analyze that kind of measure, because how can it be possible that an individual who owns a truck can (?earn) 300 pesos; 200 is too much; 100 is too much. Few capitalists in this country could earn 300 pesos a day; very few. Well, we must review this. All those practices from the past years were introduced into the country's economies. They were new to the country. They did not exist before. In our effort to seek economic efficiency, we have created the culture medium for many vices, distortions, and worst of all, for corruption. That it hurts. All these can harm the revolutionary fervor of the people, of our workers, our peasants.

That is very bad, because this weakens the revolution not only politically, but also militarily. If we have a working class that is motivated only by money, then we are in bad shape, because that kind of man is not an optimum defender of the revolution and the fatherland. [applause]

New things are constantly being learned through the revolutionary process. The correction of some mistakes has caused other mistakes and the correction of some faults has brought about other faults. But, as I have already said, the revolution has the sufficient experience to correct these mistakes without making others, to correct these faults without bringing about others. In this great crusade and struggle to eliminate all these faults and mistakes, we are greatly pleased to know that we can rely on the determined and enthusiastic support of our peasant cooperative members. [applause]

You represent the vanguard of the peasant movement, a vanguard that marches far ahead. Some have lagged very far behind. But, if we correctly apply the revolutionary principles and purify the ranks of the stragglers, of those who arrest progress, the rest of the peasants will join the cooperatives movement. With the experience gathered during all these years and the lessons that we have learned in this very same type of meetings. I think we will be in a position to give greater support and impetus to this movement by respecting, as I have said, the principle of willingness yet mercilessly fighting every fault, corruption, and exploitation of someone else's work. The day is not far into the future -- although we should not hurry -- on which we will be able to say that 100 percent of the peasants have been organized into cooperatives and that 100 percent of the peasants' lands have been organized into cooperatives. [applause]

As you know, in our country an important share of the land -- 80 percent -- is owned by state enterprises. Efforts have been made for many years to make state enterprises efficient. Some of them have set remarkable examples of advanced, high-yield technical work. Still, state enterprises have also been the victims of erroneous ideas, as I said here, of inflated payrolls, mistaken structures, of offices full of people, all those things. We, however, are studying all this and we will not stop until we get rid the state agricultural enterprises of all those vices.

In addition, we have the problem of making the structures work. We must still determine the way in which we will help the peasants, how we will do it, although we already have several ideas that have been presented. We have already reached a consensus that, at least, the areas that produce something other than sugarcane should get supplies and money. Those working on sugar cane will get theirs, and those devoted to other agricultural activities will also get theirs. This is a problem, how the peasant's sector will be helped. Their problems will have to be solved speedily and efficiently. This is what I can tell you here. We are very much aware of the need posed by all these gaps and existing problems, which we will make efforts to solve. We will try to solve this problem in a more efficient way. Summing up, I feel we have held a truly fruitful, a very fruitful assembly, a historical meeting. In addition, we have set a precedent. It would not be bad if, in addition to the congresses -- we were to hold a congress next year-- future meetings of the party, the cooperatives movement, and the enterprises were held again. This is a new experience, very interesting for our revolution, and very stimulating. Now we will work and see how we deal with this problem, how we fulfill what has been accorded here. We must also plan a future and similar meeting. We should not let too much time pass. It is not necessary to let 5, 4 or 3 years pass. Who knows, perhaps we will meet again in a year, in 2 years at the latest, [applause] to examine all that we planned to overcome here. We will hold the ANAP [National Association of Small Farmers] meeting on 17 May next year. Not only will the cooperative members be there, but also the credit and services peasants with whom we must work. We cannot forget about the credit and services cooperatives. We must work actively in these cooperatives because it is there where we are waging a battle against the enemy, the reactionary enemy, the enemy represented by speculators, and such.

This kind of people make their rounds. There is the example of the man with the two trucks. He is a peasant, but usually it is not peasants, but other people who roam the countryside. They are the ones who concern us. That is a battle we are waging among the peasants who are not part of cooperatives, with the land that has not been organized in cooperatives. The revolution is strong; it has enormous power. Those who believe they can get rich indefinitely are wrong. Those who believe that their money is beyond our reach are also wrong. The revolution has many possibilities and resources. [applause] The revolution has unlimited possibilities and resources to defend itself and struggle. Those neocapitalist, neobourgeois who are attempting to get ahead can rest assured that the revolution will crush them. They have no way out. [applause] We will struggle to create conditions allowing those who contribute, who produce through hard work to enjoy the people's goods. The struggle against all forms of exploitation and parasitism will be a struggle without respite by a revolution that is increasingly solid, strong, and experienced.

You may return to the fields assured that we have had a wonderful meeting that will be very productive. You have impressed and greatly encouraged the leadership of our party. I wish to express the great confidence we have in you, all the admiration and recognition of the moral quality, pride, and honor that you, the peasants have traditionally possessed and evidenced here.

To end, I thank you for the enthusiasm, the very favorable impression you have made on us who have presided over this meeting.

Fatherland or death, we will win. [applause]

Support for Speech

FL211208 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 May 86

[Text] Demonstrations of unanimous support for Commander in Chief Fidel Castro's statements at the second national meeting of livestock-agricultural production cooperatives have continued throughout the country, especially within the peasant movement. The common denominator of these acts of support has been the commitments made by cooperative members, leaders, and livestock-agricultural enterprises to consolidate socialism in agriculture and produce more for the peoples' consumption.

Caujeri Workers Respond

FL191646 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1402 GMT 19 May 86

[Text] From the Caujeri Valley in Guantanamo Province, Mercedes Reyes spoke for all the members of the cooperatives working to make that eastern point into a agricultural garden and an economic and social paradise. The cooperative leader referred to the profitability of those entities, the importance of timely deliverance of supplies, and called for fabrication of ploughs for oxen.

Commander in Chief Fidel Castro made a critical analysis of the delay in completing water projects in the Caujeri valley and said that it was an example of how time is wasted. The manpower was available, he said, but it was poorly used. Castro said that the caujeri cooperative members need to immediately complete the dam and he called that zone a gigantic hydroponic area because of its microclimate.

ENTERPRISE TAKES OVER PEASANTS' FREE MARKETS

FL210117 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 May 86

[Text] Today Granma Province's High Quality Fruit Enterprise began to operate all the sites the peasants' free markets occupied as a result of the agreements reached at the second national meeting of livestock-agricultural cooperatives. The first of these markets to be stocked by the afroementioned enterprise was the one in Bayamo and 21 agricultural staples began to be sold this Tuesday at parallel market prices. A lot of people attended this first day of sales. Beans, rice, squash, peppers, garlic, and other produce were sold.

Also, Granma's High Quality Fruit Enterprise will be in charge of managing and distributing the various produce being offered in these markets, and it is expected that by Saturday it will be managing the peasant's markets that have been incorporated to that enterprise at the ratio of 1 per each municipality at this eastern province.

AGRICULTURE MINISTER ON NEW PRODUCE MARKETS

FL212309 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 May 86

[Interview with Agriculture Minister Adolfo Diaz by reporter Mario Gonzalez Valdes on elimination of peasant's free markets: date and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Gonzalez] Mr. Minister, which enterprises are responsible for operating these markets, and are they ready to operate in the rest of the country, Havana Provinces, and in the capital?

[Diaz] Yes, work commissions began operating today to create the national union of collection/distribution centers and beginning today High Quality Fruits Enterprises will be in charge of operating these peasants' free markets in every province. At the moment, the collection/distribution centers will be in charge of this in Havana City Province and Havana and, eventually, the High Quality Fruits Enterprises will also operate them.

[Gonzalez] What are the available resources for the immediate operation of the national union of collection/distribution centers?

[Diaz] Well, the first thing is that they have the current resources the collection/distribution centers and the High Quality Fruits Enterprises have plus a number of additional transportation units that will be available because the main objective is to collect everything. We are reaching one of the most difficult periods from the agricultural standpoint. That will require huge efforts, and everyone is aware of it. We want our people to also support us on this. Beginning today work is being done to create these commissions to avoid, to attempt to avoid interruptions.

[Gonzalez] In 1985, the peasants' free markets sold 72.5 pesos worth of produce. About 27 million correspond to the capital and Havana Province. However, compared to 1984 there was a 9 million pesos decrease in sales. This shows that our people have been buying more at parallel markets because they know that the income of parallel markets benefits the national budget, it benefits the entire population.

ELECTION CONTROVERSY CONTINUES; NO FINAL RESULTS

Counting Resumes; Balaguer Leads

FL211500 Hilversum International Service in English 1030 GMT 21 May 86

[Text] In the Dominican Republic, the vote counting in the presidential election has been resumed after a 2-day break. The chairman of the polling committee broke off the count after one of the presidential candidates accused him of partiality towards the other candidates.

About 90 percent of the votes cast over the weekend had already been counted, and former President Joaquin Balaguer had a slight lead. The chairman of the polling committee agreed to return to work after the ruling president, Salvador Jorge Blanco, gave his assurances in a radio and television address that his government would hand over power to whichever candidate emerged as the victor.

Vote Count Suspended Again

PA211748 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1629 GMT 21 May 86

[Excerpt] Santo Domingo, 21 May (EFE) -- Vote counting in the Dominican Republic has been suspended again today, "for lack of data to feed the computers," Ponciano Rondon Sanchez, acting president of the Central Electoral Board (JCE), said. The JCE had resumed the vote count yesterday, after a 2-day suspension, due to an internal crisis which arose when the social democratic Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD) levied accusations against some JCE members.

According to a bulletin issued by the JCE, Joaquin Balaguer, the conservative candidate for the Social Christian Reformist Party [PRSC], is leading with 837,848 votes (41.6 percent), followed by Jocobo Majluta of the social democratic PRD with 795,310 votes (39.53 percent), and then by Juan Bosch of the Marxist Dominican Liberation Party (PLD), with 376,875 votes (18 percent).

A new element was added to the JCE crisis when its secretary general, Amable Diaz, resigned yesterday. He apparently left for the United States after tendering his resignation. Diaz sent a letter of resignation to the JCE's acting president, but did not specify the reasons for his resignation.

Rondon Sanchez felt that Diaz' resignation was a surprise and "creates intranquillity and unrest among the public." The JCE acting president vowed that during these elections there will not be a repeat of an incident which took place on 16 May 1978. On that occasion, reformist soldiers stormed the JCE while it was engaged in counting votes.

Moreover, the ruling PRD asked the JCE to conduct complementary elections to those held on 16 May, in those places where it is determined that there were irregularities in the registration of voters. A coalition of the PRD and five other parties indicated that the irregularities consisted in that the 1978 voting lists were included in the 1986 lists. They also requested the suspension of the computing center's director and deputy director, Flavio Rondon and Antonio Camilo, respectively, accusing them of committing irregularities in the vote counting in municipalities all over the country. Likewise, they are demanding that the votes not be counted with a computer but rather by hand, and that no bulletins on the election results be issued.

According to these parties, there are contradictions in the figures issued by the computing center. By way of example, they mentioned the Fantino Municipality where the PRD got 3,342 votes, while the document presented by that town's municipal board stated that the PRD had received 3,988 votes, which means 645 [figure as received] votes less for the PRD.

Jorge: Majluta, Be Calm

PA212021 Paris AFP in Spanish 1855 GMT 21 May 86

[Text] Santo Domingo, 21 May (AFP) -- President Salvador Jorge Blanco described as "a wrong step" today the challenge of two members of the Central Electoral Board [JCE] by the presidential candidate of the Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD); this was in a personal note sent to Majluta yesterday, whose text was published by the evening newspaper ULTIMA HORA this afternoon.

For Jorge Blanco, the challenge made by Majluta was "inconsiderate" and he notes that in the serious moment the country is experiencing -- 5 days after the election the results are not known as yet -- there cannot be "thoughtless attitudes."

Jorge Blanco has told Majluta what he [Majluta] has stubbornly refused to admit: that the only way to defend his candidacy in a very close election, in which the difference of votes between the first two candidates is slightly smaller than the number of votes challenged and those considered null, is the invalidation [depuracion] of those votes after the publication of the complete preliminary tally.

Everthing seems to indicate that Majluta is opposed to this procedure because, in the event the results are changed after the review, as he believes will happen, it would be impossible to convince the public about the honesty of this substantial change.

In his letter, the president emphasized: "The country expects from you that the vote counting will continue in a scrupulous way in the presence of your representatives." The president regards Majulta as "a national candidate with prestige, who has received a large number of votes, which shows his merits as a man of many and great battles."

BARBADOS

ST JOHN CALLS FOR SOUTH AFRICAN BOYCOTT

FL211915 Bridgetown CANA in English 1631 GMT 21 May 86

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, May 21, CANA -- Barbados today called on the international community to impose a total economic boycott of South Africa. We feel that it is now imperative for all those major powers still dealing with the racist regime of Pretoria to recognise that the only way to make that regime see reason is to cut off all remaining ties and to impose economic sanctions against South Africa, as the government of Barbados did over three decades ago, Prime Minister Bernard St John said. He was reacting to Monday's South African armed forces attacks on neighbouring Botswana, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, which Pretoria said were aimed at guerrilla bases.

St John, in a statement issued in Bridgetown, said the Barbados Government supported the African frontline states in their call for a total economic boycott of South Africa. He described the raids as an act of utter contempt by the Pretoria regime for the efforts being made under aegis of the commonwealth to promote dialogue towards the peaceful dismantling of the apartheid system. They are a stark reminder that Pretoria has no intention of effecting real change in South Africa nor of living at peace with its neighbours, St John argued.

A Commonwealth group of eminent persons, among them Barbadian Dame Nita Barrow, has been active over the past six months in attempting to spearhead the dialogue for change in South Africa. While we firmly support their efforts, and anxiously await their final report, said Sy John, we cannot but feel that this latest act of aggression on the part of the racist regime in South Africa has seriously undermined the possibility of continued dialogue.

According to the Barbadian leader, the continued intransigence of South Africa suggests that the time has come for swift action from all fair-minded states who believe in the inalienable rights of man to live in peace, freedom and equality.

CUBA COMPARED TO SOUTH AFRICA'S APARTHEID SYSTEM

FL211512 Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 9 May 86, p 11

[Topic for Today article by E.L.C.: "Apartheid in South Africa...and Cuba"]

[Excerpts] Apartheid is an Afrikaans word meaning "apartness," the state of being separate or segregated. It is the name given by the Afrikaner Nationalist Party, in office in South Africa after 1948, to the policies that govern relations between the country's white and non-white inhabitants, mainly black Africans.

But "apartness" can be applied to any situation in which the policy of the government is directed to keeping separate one group of citizens from another, even more especially because under such conditions the one group become an elite while the second group or other groups become second class citizens in their own country.

Apartheid on ethnic grounds is rightly condemned by all believers in democracy and equal opportunity. There is no reason, however, why such people should approve similar actions based on equally untenable grounds.

Thus a country which is making any other human condition automatically a barrier to achievement is equally guilty of practising apartheid. If, for example, such a country legislates serious obstacles to earning a reasonable living, or participating in decision-making, or in any way leading a normal life, it is guilty of gross discrimination. It is practising apartheid.

Just recently, a book has appeared in Brazil based on 23 hours of conversation between Frei Betto, a Dominican priest, and Fidel Castro. Frei Betto is a leading Brazilian "liberation theologist," who visited Castro in Cuba, and who shares a lot of Castro's convictions.

However, and this is extremely revealing, Frei Betto asked Castro whether Christians can be members of the Cuban Communist Party, and Castro's reply was that they cannot. Betto then argued that this means the party is involved in theological questions as it proclaims the nonexistence of God. He wondered whether in the future there could be a truly secular party, and whether someday a revolutionary Christian could belong to the party. Castro replied: "I think our country is still not prepared for that."

Since the Communist Party of Cuba monopolises political and governmental power, Castro's answer clearly indicates that Christians are excluded from political and governmental power. They are second-class citizens, inferior beings. They are welcome to do the work allotted to them by the communists, but they cannot share in making the policy decisions of the rulers of the country.

In South Africa, blacks can work, and even serve in important capacities, but they cannot share in the political process which determines the government of that country.

In South Africa, there is apartheid based on race. In Cuba, there is apartheid based on religion. It is difficult to see what difference the base makes. Both countries are practising apartheid.

DOMINICA

DLP BRANCH ASKS FOR LEADER'S RESIGNATION

FL212343 Bridgetown CANA in English 2206 GMT 21 May 86

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, May 21, CANA -- The constituency branch of the Dominica Labour Party (DLP) which on May 5 lost a by-election in the area, has called for the resignation of the party's leftist political leader Michael Douglas. In a strongly-worded letter addressed to the DLP's secretary, the St Joseph grouping charged Douglas with failing in every project that he has tackled since January last year. The letter lists among these, last July's general election, the issue concerning the stoppage of live parliamentary broadcasts by the Eugenia Charles administration, Roseau City council elections, a planned demonstration during the October 1985 visit of the British monarch, his inability to mobilise support for jailed Prime Minister Patrick John, and the loss of the St Joseph seat to the ruling Dominica Freedom Party (DFP).

The constituency association recorded its disgust at the inaction of Douglas who withdrew from the by-election campaign following differences between himself and DLP candidate Rosie Mills. After the results wer announced Douglas had described Mills as a bad candidate who disrupted the unity of the party, a statement which the DLP branch saw as trying to blacken Mills.

According to the letter, Douglas was using Mills as a scapegoat to cover his (Douglas) failure in leading the Labour Party to victory. The letter charges Douglas with bringing the rank and file of our Labour Party into disrepute, making us the laughing stock of the region. It continues: We say, therefore, that Mike Douglas must go, and we, labourites in St. Joseph and other committed labourites to this cause cannot rest until this goal is achieved, be it by demonstrations, or at the convention. The next DLP convention is carded for August 30-31 this year.

The letter which was released to the local press today is dated May 12, two days after the DLP executive met to resolve differences arising out of the by-election. Douglas is out of state and unavailable for comment. There has been no reaction from the executive to the correspondence signed by the secretary, the deputy chairman and a committee member of the constituency association.

JAMAICA

SEAGA CONGRATULATES DOMINICAN REPUBLIC'S BALAGUER

FL211908 Bridgetown CANA in English 1830 GMT 21 May 86

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, May 21, CANA -- Jamaica's Prime Minister Edward Seaga has sent victory congratulations to Joaquin Balaguer, one of six candidates in the Dominican Republic's controversial and still undeclared presidential election, the official JAMPRESS news agency reported. The Government and people of Jamaica join me in extending to you sincere congratulations on your election to the presidency of the Dominican Republic, Seaga said in the message published by JAMPRESS last night and confirmed by the agency today.

The report was issued despite several suspensions in the counting of ballots and the controversy surrounding its conduct. Balaguer, 78, was leading and has maintained his position up to the latest suspension today. He is followed by Jacobo Majluta of the Dominican Revolutionary Party (social democrats) who had questioned the integrity of the count.

Seaga said in his message to the nearly blind Balaguer, a centrist, that he was confident the warm relations existing between our countries will be further strengthened under your leadership. Jamaica looks forward to continuing cooperation at all levels in the interest of our peoples and the wider region, he said.

SOUTH AFRICAN ATTACK ON NEIGHBORS CONDEMNED

FL211600 Bridgetown CANA in English 1542 GMT 21 May 86

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, May 21, CANA -- Jamaica has strongly condemned South Africa's raids on three neighbouring Frontline states, and said the world must strengthen its commitment to end Pretoria's apartheid policy. The lone daily newspaper, the conservative GLEANER, also criticised yesterday's attack and said South Africa could get succour for the bombing of Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Botswana from the recent U.S. air raid on Libya.

Prime Minister Edward Seaga in a statement last night said South Africa's heinous apartheid regime had perpetrated acts of war on its neighbours, which it charges harbours the African National Congress (ANC) liberation movement.

South Africa deliberately undertook this illegal action at a time when the commonwealth effort for a peaceful end to the obscenity which is apartheid was underway, Seaga declared. A commonwealth eminent persons mission, set up by commonwealth leaders to help bridge the gap between Pretoria's white minority government and the black nationalists, was in South Africa at the time of the raids.

Jamaica hopes that those governments which have been hesitant about the means to be employed to terminate apartheid will now be able to see clearly as result of the latest outrage the contempt and cynical disregard with which the South African Government responds to such efforts, the Jamaican leader added. His remark was clearly aimed at those Western nations, particularly the United States and Britain, that have refused to impose stiff economic sanctions against South Africa. We urge these governments to learn this lesson well and join the rest of the international community in strengthening the commitment to bring apartheid to an early end, Seaga said.

In its editorial, THE GLEANER said South Africa's action was an outrage and a slap in the face of commonwealth leaders who have been in the forefront of search for a peaceful solution to the South Africa crisis. It added: The impunity with which Pretoria violated the sovereignty of her neighbours, points to the imbalance of power in the region when naked force is brought to bear. It is also ominous that South Africa could point to precedents of such unilateral action by Israel, for example, and the most notorious in recent times -- The U.S. air strike on Libya.

DRASTIC REDUCTION IN BAUXITE, ALUMINA EXPORTS

FL211538 Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 9 May 86, p 11

[Excerpt] Jamaica's total exports were U.S. $568.6 million last year which represents a decline over the year before as a result of a "drastic reduction" in bauxite and alumina exports. Bauxite and alumina exports fell from U.S. $443.4 million in 1984 to U.S. $289.7 million in 1985, a drop of U.S. $153.7 million. This was disclosed by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Rt. Hon. Hugh Shearer, in his budget speech in the House of Representatives on Tuesday.

Mr. Shearer said that Jamaica's exports, excluding bauxite, showed an increase, and some product sectors, notably textiles and apparel, fresh vegetables, canned products and rum performed creditably, but their improvement was not sufficient to offset the continued decline in bauxite and alumina.